

Be on the Cover of AG! Contest Details Inside

American Girl®

Celebrating 10 years of fun!

January/February 2003 ★ \$3.95

**Throw a
Pal Party**

**Take a Fun
Friendship
Quiz**

**Make
Cards that
Sparkle**

It's AG's 10th Birthday!



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Mini Magazine

See AG online!

Visit americangirl.com to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine! Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.



Sparkle Cards

Create a glittery card
for somebody special.



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Have a Pal Party!

Celebrate AG's 10th
birthday with a bash
your friends will love!

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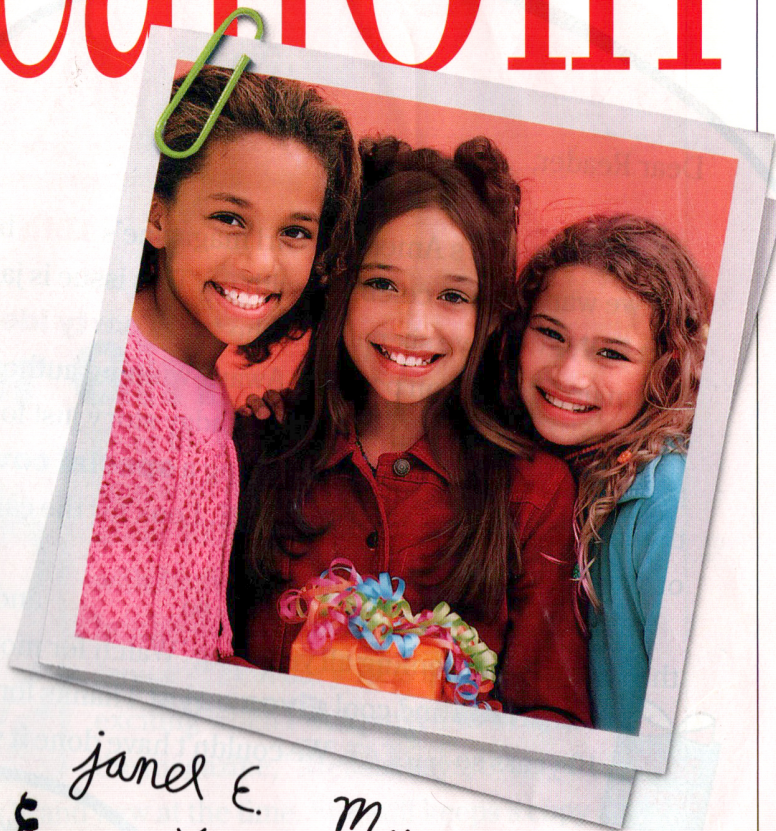


10 Years of AG

Fun facts about your favorite past stories—and about you!



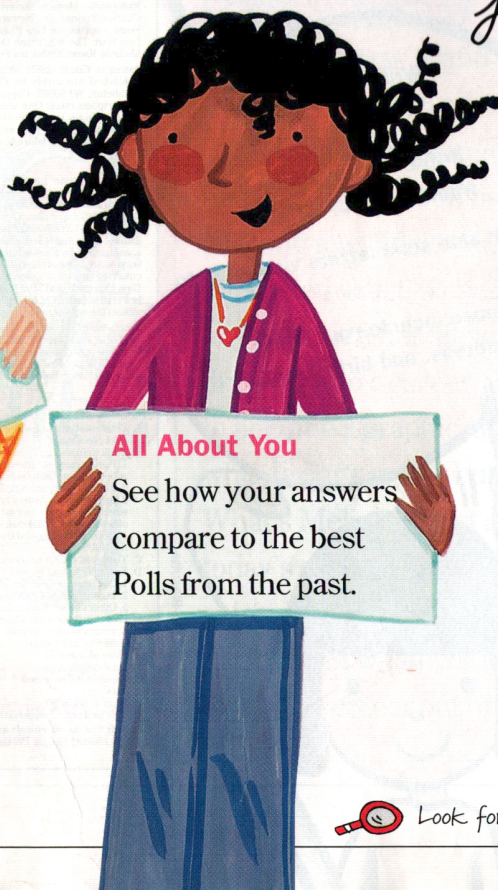
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Janel E. Morgan C.
Francesca S.

About the Cover

Meet Janel E., age 10, Francesca S., age 10, and Morgan C., age 9. They whooped it up for two days at the photo shoot for our cover and “Pal Party.” To see more photos from the shoot, turn to “Behind the Scenes” on page 49.



All About You

See how your answers compare to the best Polls from the past.



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

Letter from Us

Dear Reader,

Surprise! It's American Girl magazine's **10th** birthday, and we want **you** to celebrate with us. This issue is jam-packed with **FUN**. We have six pages of the **best party ideas** we could dream up, starting on page 12. Award-winning author Polly Horvath wrote a **wonderfully wacky** birthday story just for us. Turn to page 30 to read it. And we're running a **special cover contest** that we think you're going to **LOVE**. Look for the card in the middle of the magazine for details.

Our **readers** are what make AG so **special**, and we'll keep the birthday fun coming all year long. Watch for more **reader surprises** and cool **giveaways!** Thanks for making the last 10 years so **GREAT**. We couldn't have done it without **YOU!**



Your friends at American Girl

Write to us at:
American Girl

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to
im_agmag_editor@pleasantco.com.

Please include your name,
address, and birth date.

Illustrations: Mary Lynn Blasutta

American Girl

PRESIDENT
Ellen L. Brothers

VICE PRESIDENT, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT
Judith Woodburn

PUBLISHER
Diane Morgenthaler

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Michelle Nowady Watkins
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Kristi Thom

MANAGING EDITOR
Barbara E. Stretchberry
ARTICLES EDITOR
Emma MacLaren Henke

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Jessica Hastreiter

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Therese Kauchak, Trula Magruder, Julie Williams

SENIOR ART DIRECTOR
Julie Mierkiewicz

SENIOR PRODUCTION MANAGER
Karn Litsheim

ART DIRECTOR
Valerie Paulin
ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR
Janette Sowinski

CONTRIBUTING ART DIRECTOR
Chris David

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Julie Rooney, Shannon Seip

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Shawn Niebeling
CONSUMER SOURCE MANAGER
Joey Ravenscroft

BUSINESS ANALYST
Titi Hepp
CIRCULATION ASSISTANT
Amy Cartter

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1. Outside-county stated on Form 3541	520	503
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
DIANE MORGENTHAUER, PUBLISHER

Girls Express



Buzzword

American girls everywhere will be using this buzzword this season:

jubilee

How to say it: JOO-buh-lee

What it means: a celebration of a special anniversary

Where it comes from: The Latin word *jubilare*, which means “to raise a shout of joy”

One way to use it: “Join the jubilee for *American Girl*’s 10th birthday!”



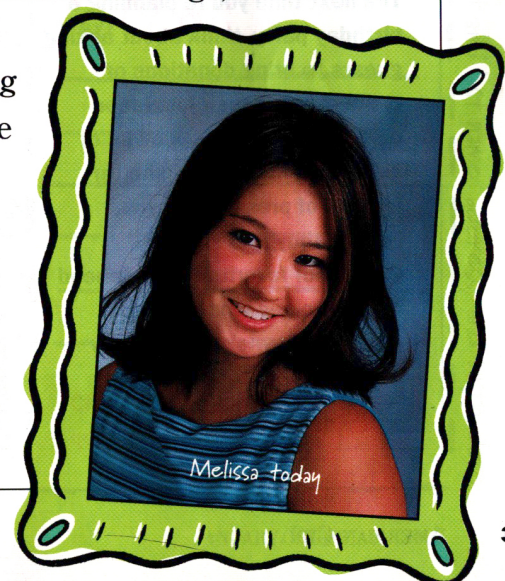
The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? Answer is on page 40.

Cover Girl



Over the years, more than 60 girls have appeared on the cover of AG. In honor of our 10th birthday, we got in touch with Melissa H., the model whose smile brightened the cover of *American Girl*’s January/February 1993 issue. “It was exciting when I was picked to be in the magazine,” Melissa says, even though AG was brand new at the time. She still keeps a copy of her special issue.

Melissa stopped modeling when she was in middle school because the job took her out of the classroom too often. She knew all along she didn’t want to stay a model forever—she was more interested in art. Now 20 and a sophomore in college, Melissa hopes to turn her life-long love of drawing into a career. She’s studying to become a graphic artist, someone who designs art for businesses. What’s Melissa’s best advice for today’s girls? “Find something you enjoy doing,” she says, “then learn more about whatever it is, and try to make a career out of it.”



Shining Star



Abby G. doesn't have a typical birthday wish list. Instead of birthday gifts, she wants paper towels, toothpaste, and diapers! Abby, 12, asked her pals to bring goods for a local homeless shelter to her party. "There are people who need things a lot more than I do," says the Wisconsin girl.

Abby's birthday guests had a scavenger hunt to collect more donations from neighbors. In all, Abby and her friends gathered enough goods to fill the back of her dad's pickup truck!



Abby is already planning her next party, which she hopes will benefit a different good cause. "I want it to be a birthday tradition!"

You can shine, too!

The next time you're planning a birthday party, think about asking guests to bring donations of canned goods for a local food pantry, clothes for Goodwill, or pet food for an animal shelter instead of presents for you.

Follow Abby's tips, too:

- Call your favorite charity ahead of time to see what it needs.
- Write your wish list on party invitations.

Gifts Galore!

We asked girls to review some hot new games and goodies.

Fib or Not, \$25

"It's up to the players in this game to guess whether the story one person tells is a fib...or not! The game really made me laugh, and it was a good way to find things out about your friends and family."



★★★★★
Stephanie C.
Age 11, California

My Ultra Secret Pen-Pal Stuff, \$20

"The kit comes with two invisible-ink markers and two decoder lights to read what the markers write. I didn't like that I couldn't see what I was writing, but I thought it was fun that only my friend and I could read the notes. This kit is unique!"



★★★★★
Dana P.
Age 12, New Jersey

Timely Reader, \$13

(Tip: Give this book light with a great book!)

"This book light has a timer built in. Two minutes before your reading time is up, it beeps to warn you, so you can find a good stopping point in your book. When time is up, the light turns off. It's useful and easy to use!"



★★★★★
Faith W.
Age 11, Georgia

It's My Diary, \$30

"This software lets you create your own diary—with a password—on your computer. I really liked It's My Diary, because it's so private. Now I don't have to worry about my brother finding my diary and reading it!"



★★★★★
Kaitlyn C.
Age 13, Missouri

Cross Your Heart

Play this delicious game at a birthday party or Valentine bash.

1 Make game cards like the one shown here, using the sayings from candy hearts. Don't use the same saying twice on any one card. Or go to Behind the Scenes at americangirl.com to print out game cards.

2 One player draws candy hearts from a bag and reads the saying on

each one. As the sayings are read, the other players use pennies to mark the sayings on their cards.

3 The first player to mark a complete row or column—across, up, down, or diagonally—wins. When you're finished playing, you get to eat the candies!



True Story

Maggie's faraway friend gave her the best birthday surprise ever!

Dear American Girl,

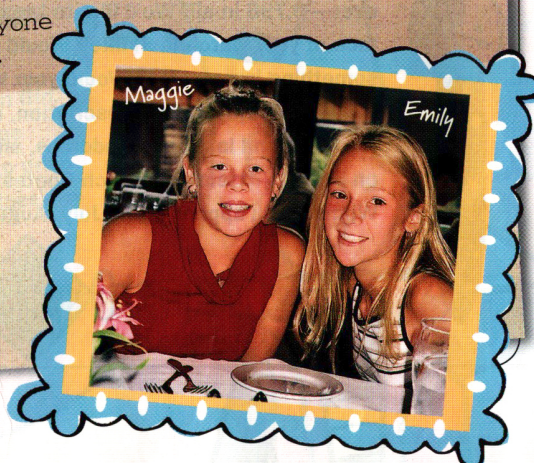
My good friend Emily lives in Missouri, and I live in Pennsylvania. Since we live so far away from each other, we get to see each other only about two times a year. On my birthday a couple of years ago, my mom came and picked me up from school early. When I got out to the car, there was Emily sitting in the front seat! I started crying because I was so happy to see her. I just couldn't believe it! I was speechless.

Later that day, we had a party for Emily with some of my other friends. During the week, we took Emily all around my town, and we went to a huge amusement park. Of course, we talked a lot! The last day of Emily's stay was the hardest—we knew we wouldn't see each other for a long time.

I'll never know how everyone kept Emily's trip a secret. Her surprise visit was the best birthday present I ever received!

Sincerely,

Maggie M.
Age 13, Pennsylvania



AG

POLL

Your answers:

In our September/October 2002 issue, we asked you what kind of birthday present you'd most like to receive. Here's how you voted:

Gift certificate

222

Cash

202

Donation to charity in your name

111

Regular gift, like clothes or toys

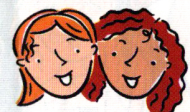
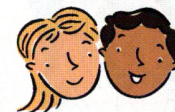
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Next question:

When party time rolls around, do you like to celebrate with all your friends, boys included? Or do you prefer a girls-only get-together? Circle one.

Girl/boy parties

Girls-only parties



Why?

Check out page 43 for more fun questions and answers!

Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your first and last name, address, and birth date.

Sweet Art

Send your friend a birthday e-mail decorated with these cute designs.

birthday present:	birthday cake:
8[]	≈-[x]



Stephanie W.
Age 13, Connecticut

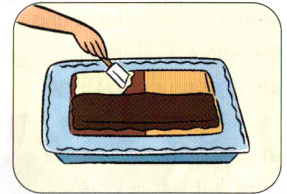
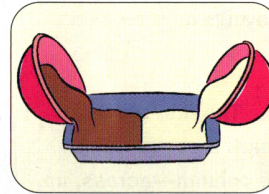
Help Wanted!

How do you celebrate America's birthday? Do you love to decorate your yard for July 4th? Maybe you make the same great summer dessert every Independence Day. Or perhaps you create cute crafts with an all-American look. Send your best 4th of July ideas to the address on page 2 along with your first and last name, address, and birth date.



People Pleaser

You simply can't go wrong with this clever cake idea sent in by Jennifer L., 12, of Virginia. You end up with four different cake and frosting combos—something for everyone!



1 Prepare batter for **one box of chocolate cake mix** and **one box of white cake mix** according to package directions. Use the same brand of cake mix for both flavors.

2 Grease a **9-by-13-inch baking pan**. Pour half of the chocolate batter and half of the white batter into opposite sides of the pan at the same time. The batters should meet at the center of the pan but not mix together. Use the remaining batter for cupcakes or another cake.

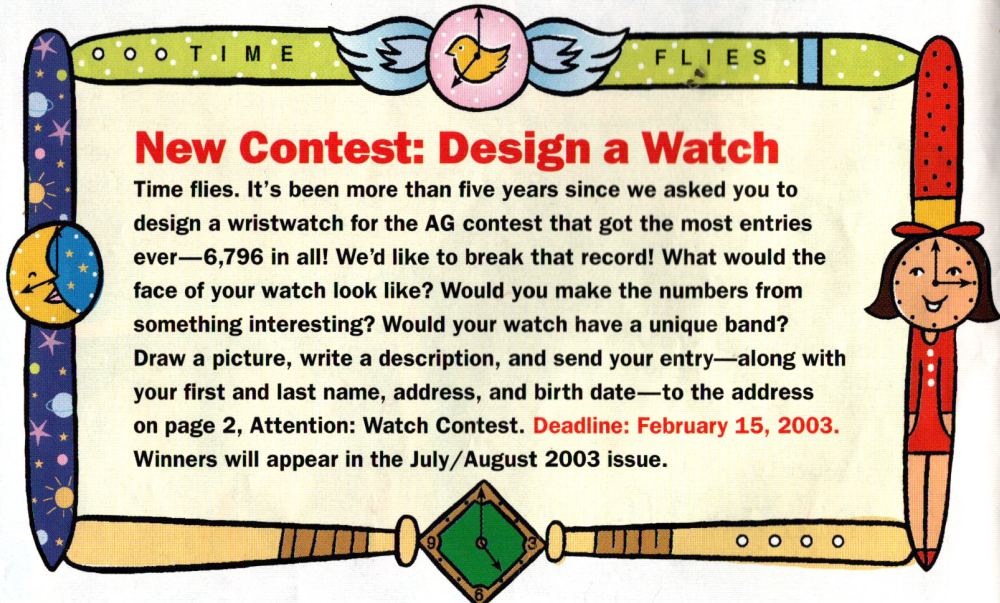
3 Ask an adult to bake the cake according to the instructions on the cake-mix packages.

4 Once the cake has cooled, frost the bottom half of the cake with **chocolate frosting** and the top half with **vanilla frosting**.

The Result: Everyone gets what they want! Your friends can choose chocolate cake with chocolate frosting, chocolate cake with vanilla frosting, white cake with chocolate frosting, or white cake with vanilla frosting.

New Contest: Design a Watch

Time flies. It's been more than five years since we asked you to design a wristwatch for the AG contest that got the most entries ever—6,796 in all! We'd like to break that record! What would the face of your watch look like? Would you make the numbers from something interesting? Would your watch have a unique band? Draw a picture, write a description, and send your entry—along with your first and last name, address, and birth date—to the address on page 2, Attention: Watch Contest. **Deadline: February 15, 2003.** Winners will appear in the July/August 2003 issue.



Birthday Song Contest

We asked you to jot down a jingle in honor of AG's 10th birthday.
Sing these winning words to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

Happy birthday, American Girl.
You're now a decade old.
You've helped make fun in rain or sun,
In hot weather or cold.

Happy birthday, American Girl!
Those ten years came and went.
Hope the next ten years are filled
With more fun and excitement!



Bernice W.
Age 13, California

On a boring, rainy day,
I had nothing to do.
But then my mom brought in the mail
And said, "This is for you."

It was AG magazine.
"Hurry," Mom said, "read it!"
When I was done, I jumped for joy.
It's what I really needed!



Alexa A.
Age 11, New Jersey

American Girl magazine,
I wish you happy birthday.
You inspire me to do great things
From Halloween to Earth Day!
Love the polls and contests, too,
Love the Heart to Heart,
Love the slumber party games
And cool ideas for art!



Stephanie C.
Age 10, New York

Happy birthday, American Girl!
I really think you're great.
I want to read your magazine
Until I'm 58!

You're the best, American Girl.
American Girl, it's true
You can turn our frowns to grins
And scare away the blues!



Sara G.
Age 10, Massachusetts

Hurray, hurray! You're turning ten.
Your magazine's the best,
With lots of stories and advice
For girls from east to west.

American Girl, we love you.
This magazine's so cool.
Here's to you and ten more years—
American Girl, you rule!

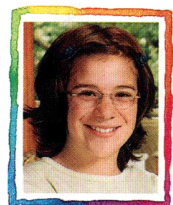


Jordyn E.
Age 11, Nebraska

Heart to Heart

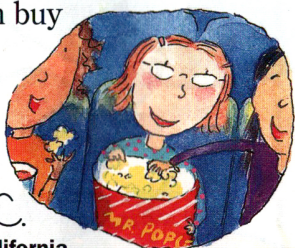
Growing Up

What's great about getting older? Is there anything you *don't* like about it? How is your life different now?

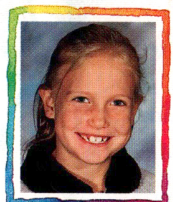


On my thirteenth birthday, a lot of things changed.

I went to my favorite restaurant, and I found that I can no longer order my favorite foods off the kids' menu. On the other hand, now I can buy a PG-13 movie ticket!



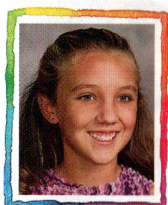
Teddy C.
Age 13, California



When I was little, my dad used to lift me up high

into the air and spin me around like an airplane. But now that I'm older, he can't do that anymore. It's hard to watch my dad play like that with my little sister, because I miss doing that with him.

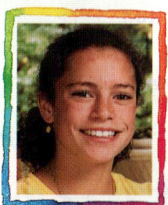
Claire C.
Age 10, Illinois



My favorite thing about getting older is being

able to volunteer more at the local soup kitchen. Helping people makes me feel good. It's fun and I enjoy doing it more than anything!

Kelsey S.
Age 11, Nebraska



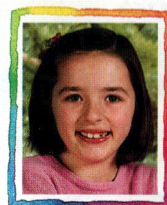
When I turned twelve, I realized that my parents weren't treating me like a baby anymore. When I talk to them, they take my opinion as an adult's. When I was small and did something good, they'd say, "Wow." Now they say, "That's wonderful!" and I feel they are responding from their hearts, not from their reflexes, like they did when I was little.

Jamilah B.B.
Age 13, Florida



I love when my relatives say, "Look how tall you're getting!" I think, "They noticed!" It makes me feel good. The only thing I don't like about growing up is that if you do something childish, people think you're immature.

Katie B.
Age 12, Wisconsin



I turned nine in April. It was so cool. I felt grown-up. I had a sleepover for my birthday party, and my friends and I stayed up late. At amusement parks I can go on the huge rides. I couldn't do that when I was only eight. It's fine to be nine!

Carly A.
Age 9, New York





One of the best things about growing up is the freedom. I get a lot more of it now that I'm eleven. For example, I wasn't allowed to stay home alone last year. Now I do and I enjoy it!

Analina A.

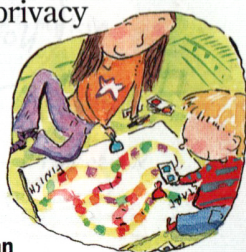
Age 11, Vermont



I couldn't go to sleepaway camp when I was younger, but now I can. My parents are giving me more respect and privacy now, too. I also get paid to babysit.

Kim R.

Age 11, Michigan



There are some bad things about growing up, like having more responsibility. But there are good things, too. You finally start to understand the jokes that your family tells at holiday dinners. And you get to see exciting movies without someone covering your eyes.

Megan L.

Age 11, California



When I was little, I would always ask my mom, "Can I help cook dinner?" She always said, "No, you're not old enough." Now I get to help. Sometimes I even cook dinner all by myself.

Gina S.

Age 11, Michigan



Now that I am older, I like that people listen to me. I'm not afraid that they'll laugh when I'm being serious.

Lindsey S.

Age 12, Missouri



My fifth-grade teacher kept us informed about the news. On September 11, 2001, he brought in a TV and we watched live coverage. It was nice knowing he thought we were grown-up enough to do that, but it was scary watching and talking about what happened. I think we all grew up that day.

Megan S.

Age 12, Iowa



Growing up is fun. You can do things like go to the mall with your friends. But sometimes you lose interest in things you once loved. Don't try to grow up too fast. You'll get there when it comes.

Alexa H.

Age 13, Florida

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Summer fun. What's your most creative way to spend a summer day without spending much money? Putting on a play with your buds? Inventing a new ice cream sundae? Writing the world's longest letter to a pen pal?

Send answers, first and last name, birth date, and photo to:

AmericanGirl

8400 Fairway Place

Middleton, WI 53562.

Deadline: February 7, 2003.

Some answers will appear in the July/August 2003 issue. ★



Amelia's

TO

TEN THINGS THAT DRIVE ME CRAZY!



↑
trying hard NOT
to cry, but crying
anyway



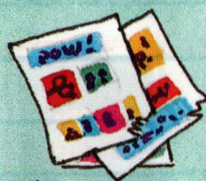
←dull scissors that
mangle your paper



↑
scratchy
sweaters



↑
toast falling
butter-side down



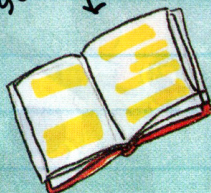
↑
torn comic books -
or, even worse,
ones missing pages

There you are,
snookie!
Now for a BIG
Kiss!



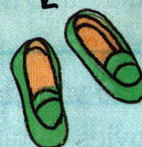
↑
relatives who
pinch your
cheeks and
give slobbery
kisses

people who write in
library books -
especially with neon
yellow markers
↓

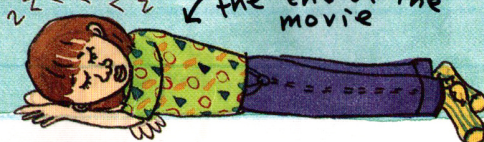


↑
icky tags sticking
out of clothes

too-tight shoes
↓



falling asleep before
the end of the
movie
←



↑
I'll dream
the ending...

Any one of
these things
can RUIN
my day!



TOP TEN

by Marissa Moss
(and counting-down
Amelia!)

TEN THINGS THAT MAKE ME **happy!**

↑ I'm tickled pink!



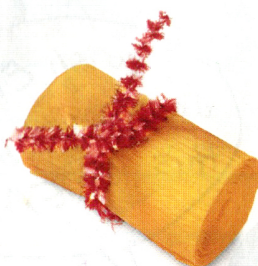
From My Notebook, with Help from Amelia.
For lots of fun Amelia activities,
check out americangirl.com.

Have a Pal Party!

In honor of AG's 10th birthday, throw a bash for your birthday—or any day—using these great party ideas!

Invitation

Use markers to write party details on a crepe paper streamer. Put scrap paper underneath the streamer while you write in case the ink bleeds through. Roll up the streamer. Twist half a pipe cleaner around it.



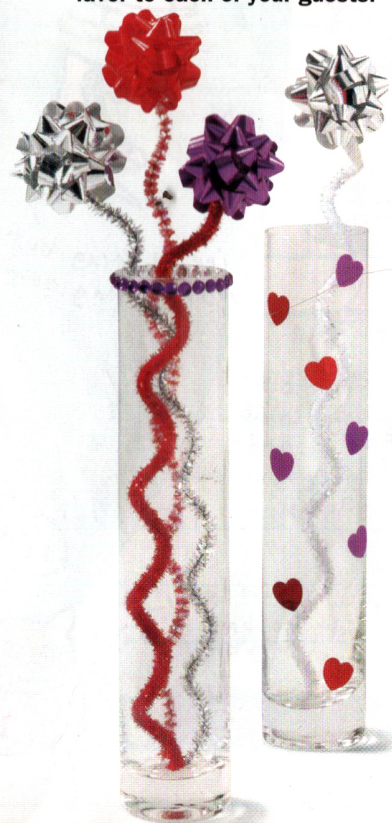
Best Bud

Make a snack that's also a decoration! Arrange cupcakes in the shape of a flower as shown. Decorate cupcakes with brightly colored candies.

Friendship Flowers

Make a pretty "bow-kay."

Twist sparkly pipe cleaners around a pencil. Remove the backings from small gift bows and stick them to the pipe cleaners. Put double-stick tape on the bow backings for a stronger hold. Give a flower favor to each of your guests.





Say Cheese!

Set up a photo booth in a corner. Ask Mom or Dad to hang a colorful sheet or curtain as a backdrop. Have guests stand in front of the backdrop, and take a Polaroid or digital picture. Supply props such as silly hats or sunglasses for extra-goofy shots. Give each guest a photo to take home.





Act It Out

Collect items from around the house, such as a big bracelet, a hairbrush, a can of soup, or an empty gift box. On slips of paper, write down settings, such as a rock concert or the monkey cage at the zoo. Have guests pair up. Each pair takes a turn picking two or

three items from the prop bag and a slip of paper. The timer starts immediately and the players must begin. They have three minutes to tell a story using the props and the setting on the slip of paper. If they can't, they try again with new items!



Friendship Collage

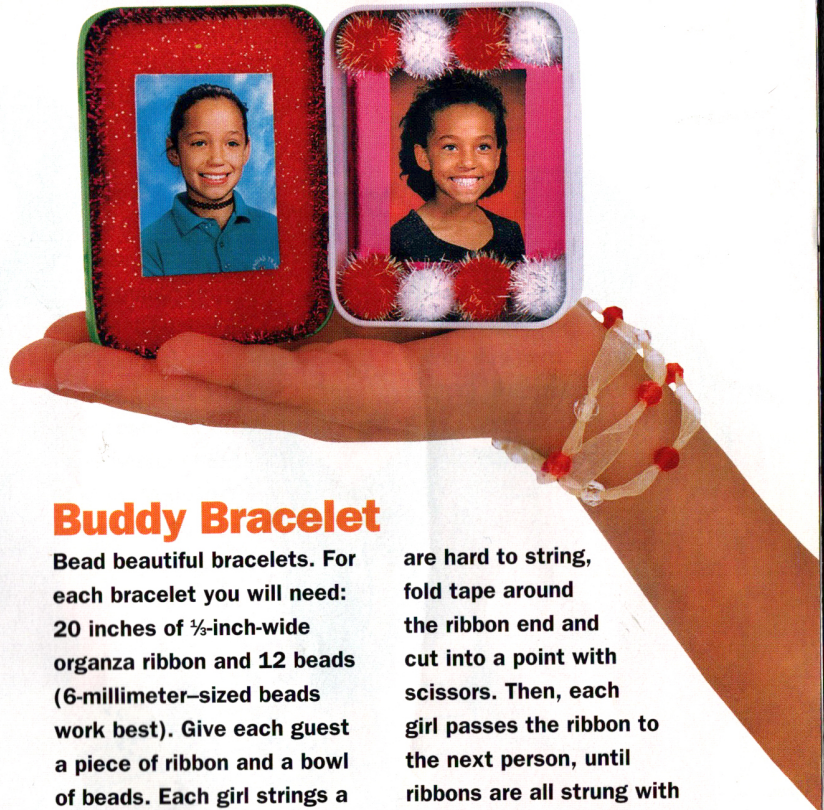
Ask each guest to bring her school photo to the party. Put the photos in a bag and have each girl pull out a photo. The girl in the photo each guest picks is the person for whom she'll be

making a collage. Have craft paper, old magazines, cute stickers, glue sticks, and some good background music on hand! When they're finished, present the collages to each other.

Grin Tins

Save candy tins and turn them into picture frames. Supply tins, colored paper, scissors, glue, double-stick tape, pompoms, and sparkly

pipe cleaners. Line the inside of each tin with paper, and glue in place. Decorate with other items. Guests can add their favorite photos later.



Name Game

Here's a silly game to play throughout the party. When a person shouts out her name, the other guests must shout out their own names, too. The last one to shout out her name loses.



Buddy Bracelet

Bead beautiful bracelets. For each bracelet you will need: 20 inches of $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch-wide organza ribbon and 12 beads (6-millimeter-sized beads work best). Give each guest a piece of ribbon and a bowl of beads. Each girl strings a bead by twisting the end of her ribbon and threading it through the bead. If beads

are hard to string, fold tape around the ribbon end and cut into a point with scissors. Then, each girl passes the ribbon to the next person, until ribbons are all strung with beads. To wear, wrap a bracelet around your wrist. Tie a knot and trim the ends.



Give Me a Hand

Get together in a circle and randomly grab hands. Players must grab the hands of two *different* people. The object of the game is for players to untangle themselves without letting go of each other's hands. At the end, everyone will be in a circle.

Take a Dip



Your guests will love this twist on a favorite snack. Look for frozen soft pretzels at the grocery store. Ask an adult to warm the pretzels following the directions on the package. Set up a pretzel bar and provide a variety of toppings, such as salsa, honey, ranch dip, caramel or chocolate sauce, and spaghetti sauce. Give each girl a pretzel and dip in!





Cheek to Cheek

Write the names of body parts (such as cheek, wrist, knee, hip, foot, etc.) on slips of paper. Ask guests to team up in pairs. Tip: it helps for players to be about the same height. A helper chooses a slip of paper and reads it out loud. Each team must hold a playing card using only that body part. For example, if the body part is "cheek," the

players must hold a card between their cheeks. The helper will need to place the card for each team to hold. Once a card is being held, players can't use their hands to adjust it! Keep choosing slips and adding cards. When a team drops a card, they're out. Play continues until only one team is left. Play again with new teams.



Terrific Truffles



Make chocolates with your chums. Before the party, ask an adult to prepare the truffle mixture: Put 3 cups semisweet chocolate chips and 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk into a saucepan. Stir constantly over medium heat until melted. Remove from heat and pour into a small bowl. Let cool for 2 hours.

Have your guests wash their hands. Let each girl roll the chocolate mixture into small balls, then dip the balls in candy decorations. Place each truffle in a paper candy cup (available at craft stores). Put truffles in small boxes (found at craft stores) for each girl to take home.

Who Wrote That?

On paper bags, write different questions, such as, "What's your favorite movie?" and "What's your dream vacation spot?" Ask each guest to write her answers on slips of paper and put her slips into each bag. Hand out charts listing guests' names and the

categories, as shown. Then ask a helper to read the slips for the first category. The object is to guess who wrote each answer. Write guesses in the blank spaces on the charts. After all of the slips are read and the blanks are filled in, reveal the answers.

	Favorite Movie	Dream Vacation	Favorite Candy Bar
Janel	Snow Day		
Haili	Life Size		
Morgan			
Frankie	Spy Kids		
Valeria	Home Alone		

Handwritten labels: Snow Day, Shrek, Spy Kids



Sign On

Give each guest a photo mat to fit a 4-by-6-inch photo. Have everyone autograph the mats with different-colored gel pens. Take a group photo at your party. Get 4-by-6-inch reprints made and send them out with your thank-you cards. Guests can put the photos in their autographed mats. ★

To create your own birthday e-cards, visit E-Card Central at americangirl.com!



Quiz

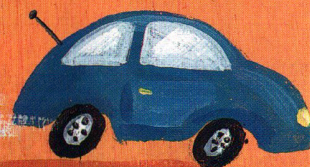
What Will Your Friend Be Like in

2013?

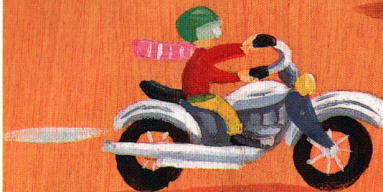
Imagine a day with your friend ten years from today. Read this quiz with her and guess which answers she'll pick for herself.

1. Honk, honk! Here comes your friend to pick you up for a night out. What's she driving?

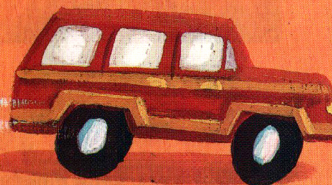
a. A blue "retro"
VW Beetle from 2001



b. A motorcycle with
lots of chrome



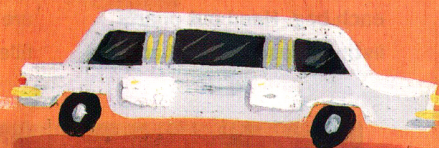
c. A Jeep, which is useful for
carrying around all her dogs
(though they're not coming
to the movie with you)



d. A shiny silver
sports car—convertible,
of course



e. A limousine, but
she's not driving—
her chauffeur is



2. Your friend apologizes for being late to pick you up for the movie. What's her excuse?

a. There was a last-minute emergency at the vet clinic—a kitten came in with a broken tail.

b. She was mobbed by her autograph-seeking fans when she left her house.

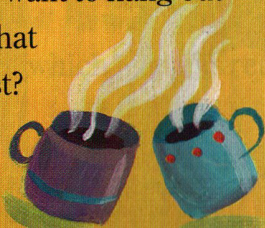
c. She was finishing an article for a glamorous magazine and lost track of time.

d. She got an unexpected phone call from the President of the United States and didn't want to cut her short.

3. After the movie, you want to hang out somewhere and talk. What does your friend suggest?



a. A place where you can get good pizza (some things never change)



c. A cool café where you can stay up all night drinking coffee



b. The best Japanese restaurant in town, which also has a karaoke room



d. The beach, so you can watch the waves while you chat

4. Your friend tells you about her new place. What's it like?

a. It's a nice little apartment in an old house near the college campus.

b. It's a stylish city loft full of artwork.

c. It's a cozy bedroom in a big house that she shares with her seven roommates.

d. It's a tent, because she's about to spend a year backpacking around the world.

WELCOME

5. While you're talking, your friend accidentally drops her purse. What spills out?

a. A broken pencil, loose coins, crumpled tissues, an empty pack of gum, the movie ticket stub, a brush with hair in it, and lots of other junk

b. A credit card, a tube of lipstick, and a plane ticket to Paris

c. A wallet made from recycled tires, organic breath mints, a panda key chain, and a solar-powered phone

6. After scooping up her things, your friend shows you a photo she finds in her purse. What's the photo of?

a. Your friend's fiancé with his grandma, the Queen of England

b. Your friend on the red carpet at a movie premiere (she clipped the photo out of a magazine)

c. Your friend's horse, dogs, cats, parrot, and the llama she just got

d. Your friend bungee jumping in Australia

e. You and your friend as kids in the year 2003

7. You've had a fun day together. What does your friend say when she drops you off at home?

a. "Same time next Friday?"

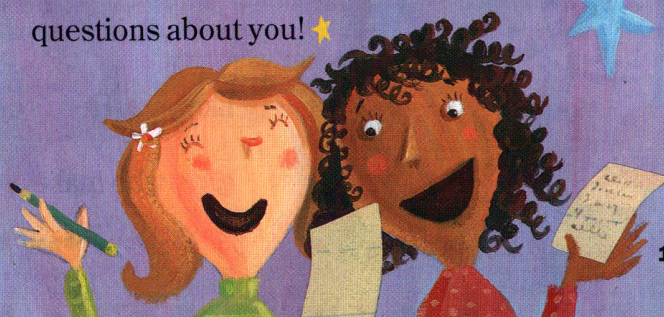
c. "It was great to see you. Let's do it again the next time I'm in the U.S.A."

b. "Ciao, baby!"

d. "See ya later, alligator" (same thing she says now)

Scoring

Give yourself one point for each answer that matched what your friend chose for herself. Now ask your friend to answer the questions about you!



10 Years of AG

Getting ready for our **10th birthday**, sure has brought back some **extra-special memories**. We've laughed at our **funniest** jokes **Ha Ha** and **silliest** quizzes. We've looked over all our fun **crafts** and **parties**. We've even **cringed** at mistakes we've made.  But most of all, we've shared stories about the **wonderful girls**  who read, write to, and star in *American Girl*—stories about girls like **you**. Here's our **salute** to all the **great girls** who make **AG** great, too! 



1993



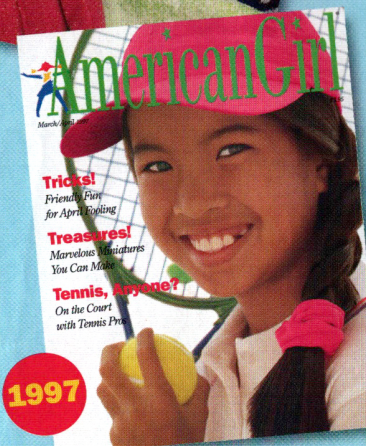
1994



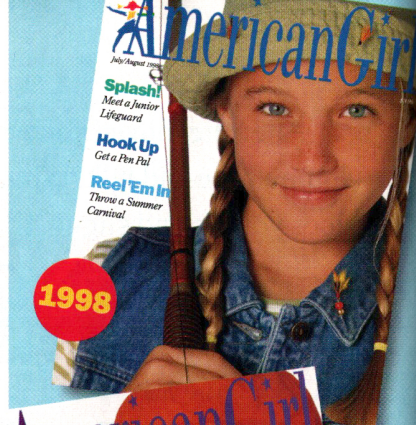
1995



1996



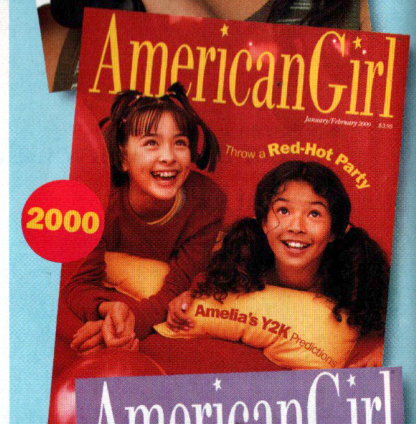
1997



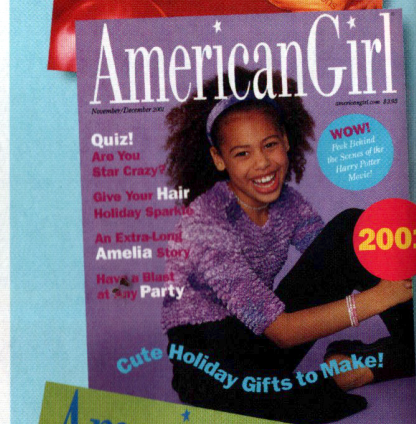
1998



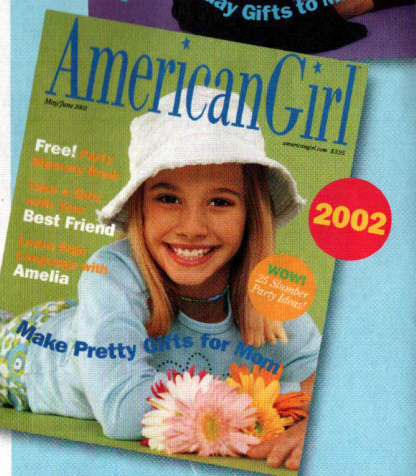
1999



2000



2001



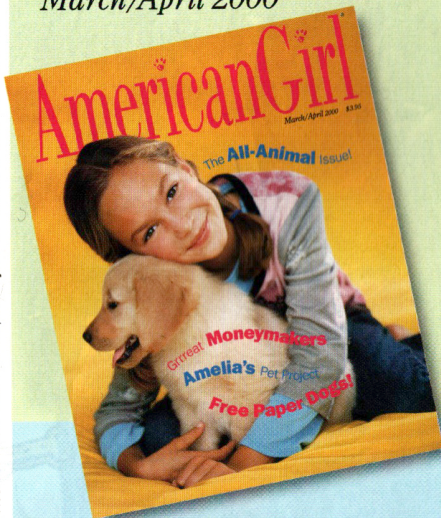
2002

Fun Facts

Every issue, we find out which features readers like best. Here are some of your all-time favorites!

Top Cover:

March/April 2000



Top Craft:

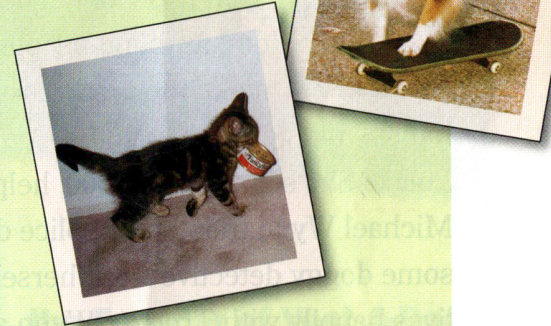
Pen Pals,
November/
December
1999



Want to
make your own
Pen Pals? Look
for instructions at
americangirl.com.

Top Contest:

Pet Trick Photos,
March/April 2000



Top Heart to Heart Topic:

Embarrassing
Moments,
January/
February 2002



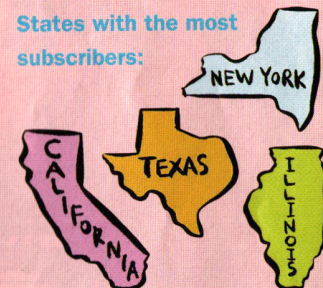
Top True Story:

Jeni S. rescued a
kitten abandoned
in a lake!
July/August 2002



More Facts and Figures

States with the most
subscribers:



Average age of
AG readers: 11



Number of letters
readers have sent to
AG since it started:
more than 500,000



AG reader name with the most
different spellings:

Kaitlyn Caitlin
Kaitlin
Kaitlyn Katelyn

Top Amelia:

"A Big Bully"—Amelia
clashes with the class bully.
January/February 1998



Top Gift Idea:

"Gifts and Goodies"—make per-
sonalized presents in tiny tins.
November/December 2001



Your Top Friend Tips: It can be great to have one best friend. It can be great to have a lot of best friends.

What Ever Happened To...?

We follow up with some of the stories you've loved.

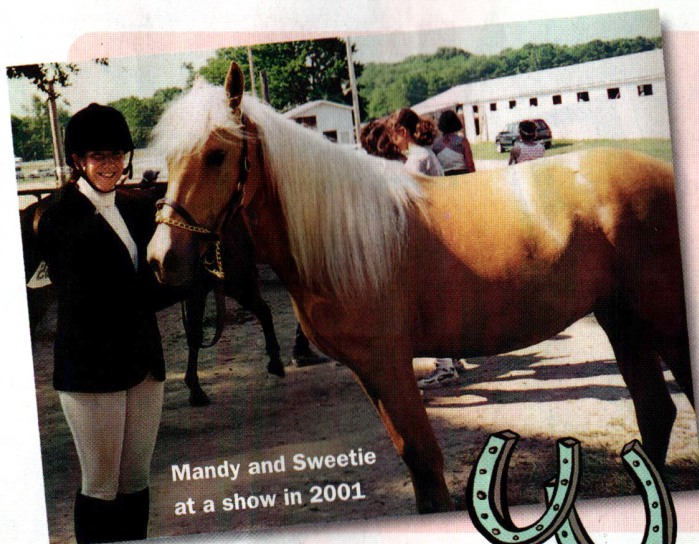
Fanny, the Police Dog

Michael Weinstein



In March 1995, we introduced you to Fanny, a golden retriever who went to school to become a guide dog for blind people. Fanny didn't make the grade as a guide dog,

but she did get a job with the Connecticut State Police. She served until 2000, helping Trooper Michael Wynn train other police dogs and doing some doggy detective work herself. Today she lives happily with Trooper Wynn and his family.



Sweetie, the Chincoteague Pony

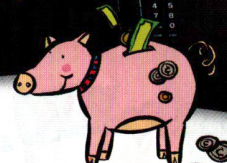
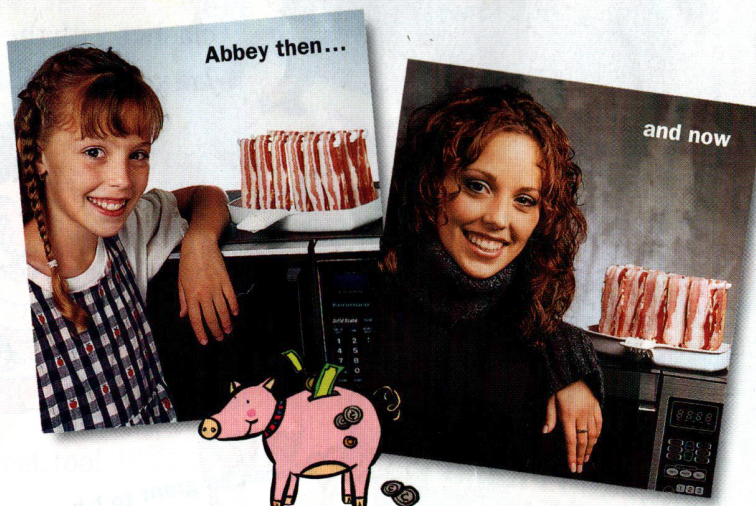
In July 1996, we told you how Mandy A. adopted a tiny pony named Sweetie from Chincoteague Island—the real-life setting of the classic book *Misty of Chincoteague*. Mandy and Sweetie grew up together. Today Sweetie's a successful show horse, and Mandy's a member of her college's equestrian team.



Medford Taylor

Abbey F., the Inventor of Makin Bacon

In March 1995, we told the story of Abbey F., then 11, who invented a dish for cooking no-mess microwave bacon. Abbey was well on her way to success back then, but no one guessed just how successful she'd be. Abbey and her dad have turned Makin Bacon into a business that earns nearly *two million dollars* a year!



In friendship threesomes, it's easy for one friend to get left out of the fun.

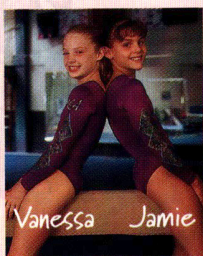


A friend can be anyone—a teacher, a favorite aunt, even a boy.



Gymnasts Jamie Dantzcher and Vanessa Adler

William McKenzie Smith

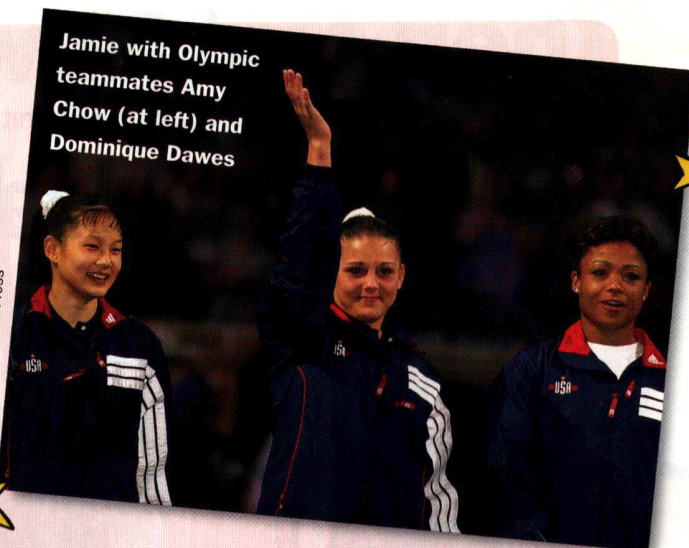


In January 1996, we introduced you to friends Jamie and Vanessa, then members of the USA Junior National Gymnastics Team. Both Jamie and Vanessa kept on competing, and Jamie even went to the

2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia! Still friends, Vanessa's now a college student and gymnastics coach, while Jamie's a star gymnast at UCLA.

Jamie with Olympic teammates Amy Chow (at left) and Dominique Dawes

Tom Theobald/Zuma Press



Stephanie, Officer Jim Wahl, and his canine partner, Tiko, whose vest Stephanie supplied

On Location Specialty Photographs by Gary Shults



Stephanie T., the Founder of Vest-A-Dog

In March 2000, we told you how Stephanie T., then 11, raised money to buy bulletproof vests for police dogs after she read about a dog who was shot and killed on duty. Since AG first talked to Stephanie, she's collected enough money to buy vests for more than 1,000 dogs—that's about half a million dollars! Stephanie also told her story in *Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul*, inspiring many other kids to help out with her cause.

Amanda with Jennie Garth, who plays Amanda's big sis on *What I Like About You*

Amanda Bynes

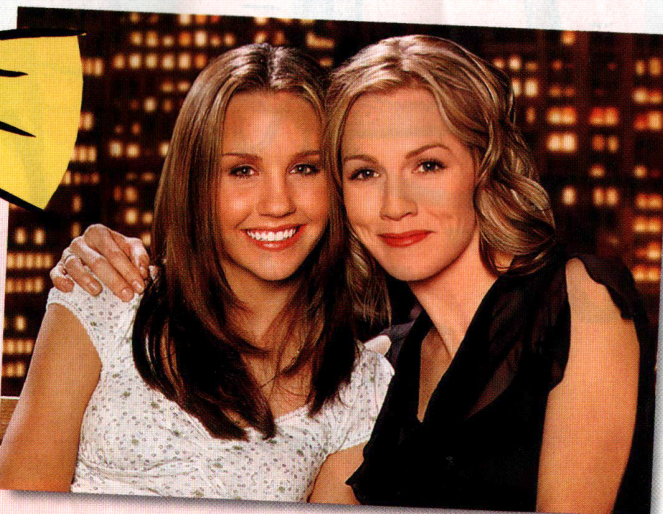
Courtesy Nickelodeon



In January of 2000, we took you behind the scenes of Amanda's brand-new TV show. The show became a huge hit, and last summer Amanda had her first starring roll in a feature film, the comedy *Big Fat Liar*. Today

she's got a new sitcom, The WB's *What I Like About You*, and a new movie, *What a Girl Wants*.

© The WB/Ron Batzdorff



Then and Now

Here's how things have changed since AG first came into girls' worlds.

1993



2003



Number of AG subscribers

160,000

650,000

Girls' fashions



New words in the dictionary

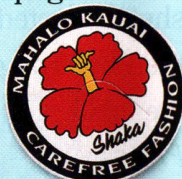
e-mail, snowboard

chalupa, webcam

Popular things to collect



pogs



state quarters



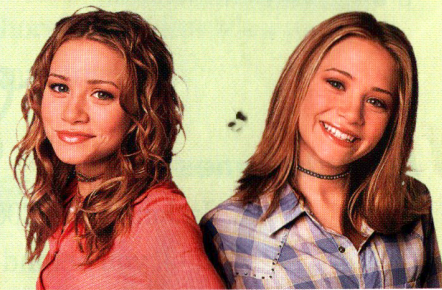
Girls' Top TV Shows



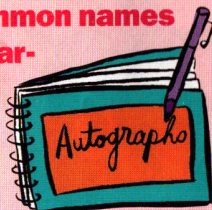
Blossom, Full House



Lizzie McGuire, So Little Time



Most common names for 10-year-old girls



Jennifer Jessica
Sarah
Amanda Ashley

Emily Jessica
Sarah
Taylor Ashley

Photos—1993 fashions: Monica Skeisvoll; Full House courtesy ABC; So Little Time courtesy ABC Family.

Real friends say—and show—they're sorry when they make mistakes.



Friends aren't always alike.



Friends respect each other.



How AG Changed My Life

Readers share sweet stories of how *American Girl* made an impact on them.

Dear American Girl,

You made me a new American girl! I used to be a bully at school, but when I read an article about bullies in your magazine, I realized how other people must feel when I act like a bully, and I quit bullying people around. Now I try to treat others as I would like to be treated. You're the best!

Thank you,

Chelsy H.

Age 10, Nebraska



Dear American Girl,

When I was 12 years old, I got the very first issue of the magazine. I thought it was awesome, and I continued to subscribe. I had a dream to someday work for American Girl.

When I was 20, I e-mailed AG to see if I could intern with the magazine. I couldn't believe it when I got a phone call saying they wanted to interview me! I got the job, and I worked at American Girl for an entire summer.

I had such a great time helping to put an issue together and reading letters from girls! It really was a dream come true!

Love,

Katie G.

Illinois



Katie, age 12

Katie at American Girl



Dear American Girl,

A long time ago, you ran a story about a girl who cut her hair and gave it to Locks of Love, a group that makes human hair into wigs for young cancer patients. That story inspired me, and I went to a Vidal Sassoon salon near my home to get my waist-length hair cut. When my hairstylist found out about Locks of Love, she was very excited. She got all the Vidal Sassoon salons across the country to participate in the program!

Thanks for inspiring me,

Emily R.

Age 13, Illinois

If you're interested in donating your hair, ask your parents to call Locks of Love at 888-896-1588, or check out locksloflove.org.



AG has 2,042 readers in 101 foreign countries.



If you're a guest at a **Canadian** girl's birthday party, don't be surprised if you find a coin in your piece of cake. That means you get the first turn at all the party games!



A girl in **Ecuador** is often named after a saint. So instead of celebrating on her birthday, she has an afternoon tea party on her saint's day.



In **Peru**, the birthday girl is queen for a day! She wears a paper crown, and her guests wear party hats.

Forget the cake—candy veggies are the tasty treat at fiestas in **Brazil**. The birthday girl gives her guests beautiful sweets shaped like fruits and vegetables.



Here's how some of them celebrate birthdays!

by Shannon Seip

days the World

What a great gift in **Germany**—birthday girls don't have to do chores on their special day, and teachers don't assign any homework!



An **Israeli** girl's birthday cake shows her favorite thing. If she's crazy for cats, then her cake is shaped like a cute kitty!



At **Australian** birthday parties, guests eat Fairy Bread—buttered bread covered with tiny, colorful candy sprinkles.



Birthdays in **Nigeria** are considered extra-special when you turn 1, 5, 10, and 15 years old. That's when the parties are huge—with 100 guests or more! ★



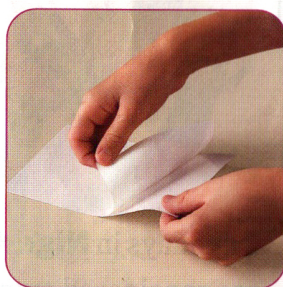
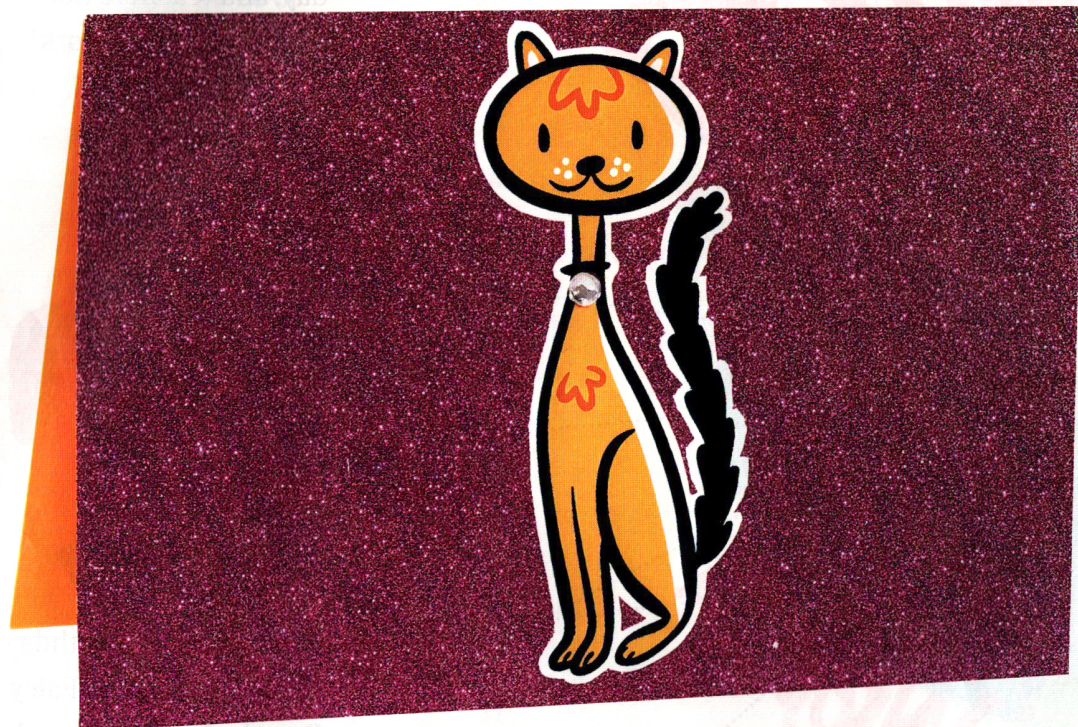
Craft

sparkle cards

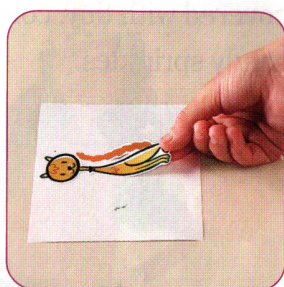
Brighten someone's day with a glittery greeting card!

YOU WILL NEED

- plain sticker sheet (available at scrapbook stores)
- sticker or an image from a magazine
- scrap paper
- glitter (microfine works best)
- folded card stock
- glue stick



1 Remove backing from sticker sheet. Lay sticker sheet sticky side up on work surface.



2 Press cutout or sticker to sticker sheet. Slide a piece of scrap paper under sticker sheet.



3 Sprinkle glitter over sticker sheet, covering it completely. Shake extra glitter off sticker sheet and onto scrap paper, then pour extra glitter back into glitter pot.



4 Glue glitter sheet to front of folded card. Cover card with scrap paper and gently rub so that sheet sticks to card. Write a greeting inside.



Create glitter sheets, then cut them into strips. Use paper-punch shapes to make decorative borders.



Cut glitter sheets into letters, such as an F for "friend"!



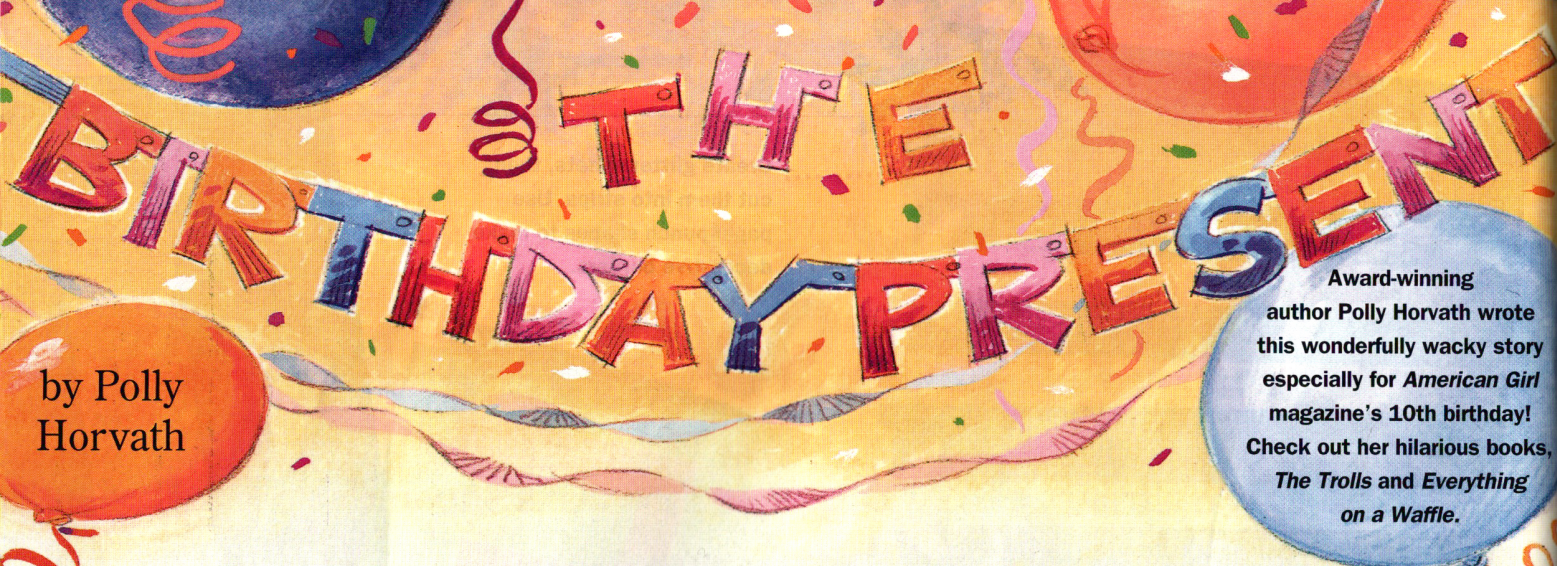
Use a regular paper punch to cut out dots.



Accent cards with sparkly objects, such as fabric appliques or rhinestones. ★

Ideas are from the **sparkle card kit** from American Girl Library. Look for it in bookstores this March.





THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT

by Polly Horvath

Award-winning author Polly Horvath wrote this wonderfully wacky story especially for *American Girl* magazine's 10th birthday! Check out her hilarious books, *The Trolls* and *Everything on a Waffle*.

Elizabeth Ann lived in Notaspleasantville, Wisconsin, which was just down the road from Pleasantville. The founders who named Notaspleasantville actually thought it was very nice, but the name *Pleasantville* was already taken.

Elizabeth Ann was friendly but quiet, and she was an excellent student. She wasn't stuck up about it, and not everything came naturally. What she loved doing most was writing. She wanted to be a famous writer when she grew up, but she could not write a whole story yet. She would get partway through what she thought would be a wonderful story, and then she would run out of ideas or plot or new characters or interest. She had a desk at home bulging with half-finished stories.

Everyone knew Elizabeth Ann was a capable person. Teachers liked her because she was trustworthy. Her friends liked her because she was game for just about anything. Everyone figured that Elizabeth Ann could do pretty much whatever you asked of her. But none of them knew that she could not sing.

Elizabeth Ann had been able to hide her inability to sing. Whenever her class had music, she opened her mouth and pretended to sing along. Sometimes she even made little breathy noises. But nothing tunelike ever issued from her lips. None of her teachers ever suspected a thing, and none of her friends and fellow classmates seemed to notice, either. Since no one was ever going to blow the whistle on her, Elizabeth Ann figured she could go on like this forever. Boy, was she wrong.





hen Elizabeth Ann reached the fifth grade, a special music teacher, Mrs. Cheddar, would visit the class twice a

week. Mrs. Cheddar was a wonder. She could sing, accompany herself on the piano, and play the ukulele, bass guitar, dulcimer, triangle, and spoons. Most wondrous of all, she had legs about three inches in diameter that nonetheless supported her tank-like body. Elizabeth Ann would sit during music pretending to sing, but really she was eyeing Mrs. Cheddar's legs and waiting for them to collapse. It lent a certain disaster-averted poignancy to every music class.

One day, after Mrs. Cheddar had successfully conducted the class in a rousing chorus of "I Love the Piney Trees of Northern Wisconsin," she announced that her birthday was next week.

"Did you know it's also *American Girl* magazine's birthday? My mother says that in Pleasantville, they are throwing balloons out of all the windows," said Martin.

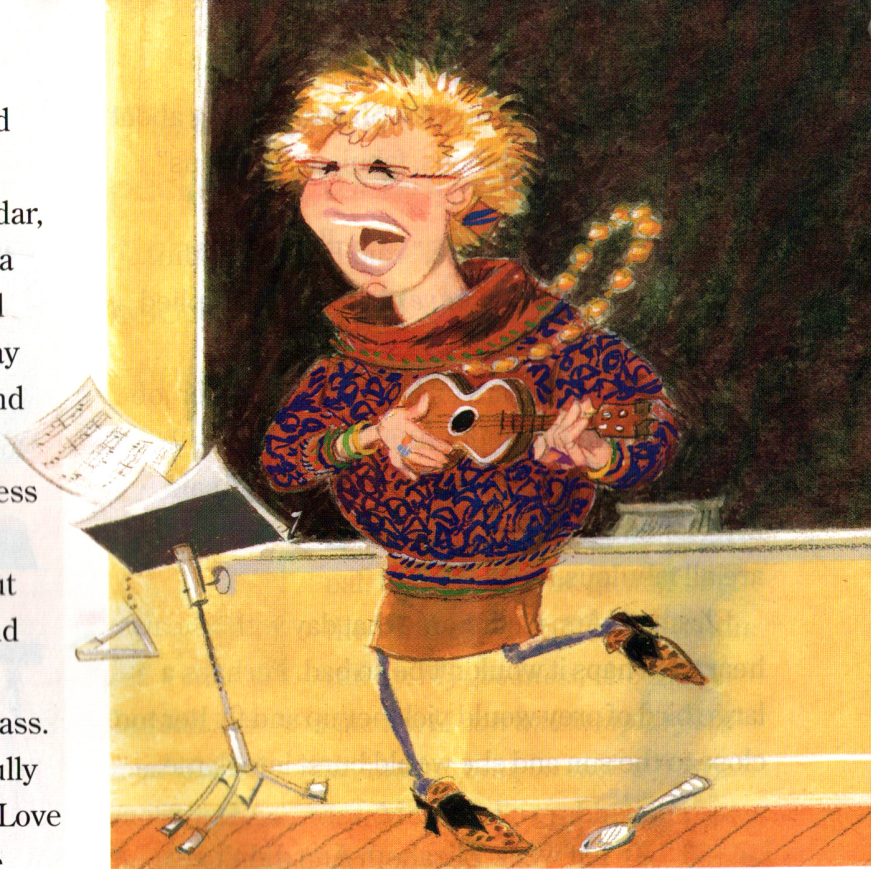
"Yes," said Sarah. She had a likeability quotient second only to Elizabeth Ann's. "And they have decorated their cows with streamers."



"Yes, yes, but my birthday is the important one!" said Mrs. Cheddar. "Next week on January 30, I will turn fabulous fifty. Fabulous, fabulous, full-of-life, many-years-to-come, not-dead-yet fifty." She smiled at them as if she expected a reaction, but, really, no one had any idea what to say.

"That's nice," said Sarah finally.

"No, not nice, fabulous," corrected Mrs. Cheddar. "My fabulous fifty lands on Thursday. I plan to commemorate it by choosing one special



student to sing 'Happy Birthday' to me. Who will be the lucky soloist?"

Many hands shot up. It amazed Elizabeth Ann that so many children wanted to sing alone in front of everyone. Her hand would never shoot up. She would rather be eaten by dogs. That was when Mrs. Cheddar said, "Elizabeth Ann, I have selected you."

Elizabeth Ann froze. Her breath stopped coming with the kind of dependable regularity that she had foolishly grown to take for granted. *This isn't happening*, she thought. Her hand shot up after all.



"Yes?" said Mrs. Cheddar. She was flitting about the room saying "fabulous, fabulous, fabulous" to herself.

"Please do not pick me," said Elizabeth Ann.

"Too late, darling. I *have* picked you," replied Mrs. Cheddar.

"I'm sure almost anyone would do a better job than me," said Elizabeth Ann.

"Oh, don't be modest. I hate modesty," said Mrs. Cheddar. "We must all flaunt ourselves. We are all fabulous."

Elizabeth Ann went home that day with a heavy heart. Perhaps it wouldn't be so bad. Perhaps a large bird of prey would pick her up and fly her too close to the sun and she would burst into flame.

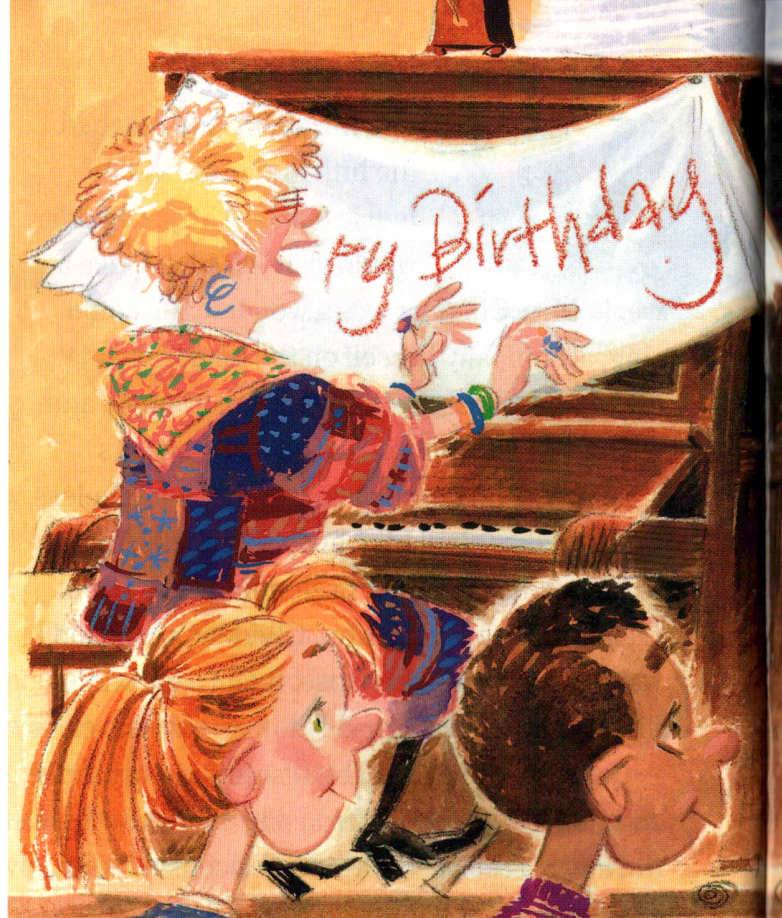
That week Elizabeth Ann didn't get much sleep. She didn't eat much either. She went around like a limp piece of bait.

January 30 rolled around on a snowy, blustery day. "Elizabeth Ann, what is the matter?" asked her mother at breakfast.

"It's Mrs. Cheddar's birthday..." began Elizabeth Ann.

"Oh, heavens," said her mother, "that reminds me. Over in Pleasantville, it's *American Girl* magazine's birthday, too! I must organize the clowns!"

Elizabeth Ann's mother was a party planner. Elizabeth Ann nodded glumly. She left the house wishing for a blizzard that would close the school.



But no, at ten thirty on the dot, in rolled the piano with a distressingly festive Mrs. Cheddar.

"Hello, children!" she called happily.

"Happy birthday," said the children.

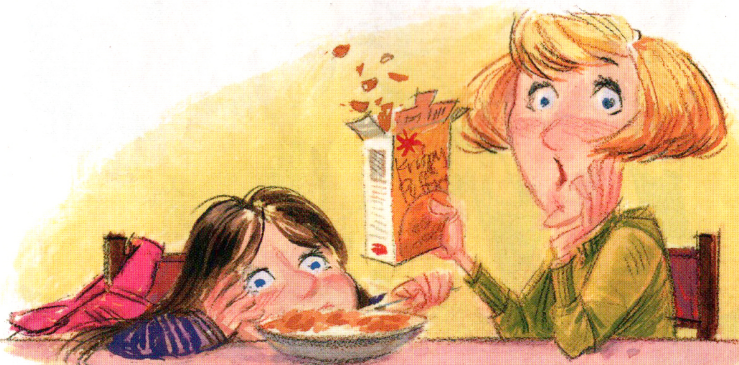
"You remembered!" said Mrs. Cheddar, getting teary-eyed and completely ignoring the Happy Birthday banner she had nailed to the piano.

"Elizabeth Ann, come on up and sing, darling, sing!" said Mrs. Cheddar.

Elizabeth Ann stood up as slowly as she could. She walked to the piano with leaden legs. This was unquestionably the worst moment of her life. She had been telling herself that the anticipation was always worse than the thing dreaded. *Uh-oh*, she thought, *so much for that theory*. Mrs. Cheddar struck the first chords of "Happy Birthday." Elizabeth Ann opened her mouth and hoped for a miracle. Nothing came out.

"Elizabeth Ann," said Mrs. Cheddar gaily, "you missed your cue. Should we start again?"

Elizabeth nodded her head. Her mouth was too





dry for words. She could barely swallow. She wondered if her throat could pucker up, turning prunelike, until it choked all the air out of her esophagus and she fell over in a spectacular death in front of the whole fifth-grade class. She was so busy wondering that she missed her cue again.

“Ha, ha, ha, Elizabeth Ann!” said Mrs. Cheddar, chortling in high spirits.

When Mrs. Cheddar struck up “Happy Birthday” for the third time, Elizabeth Ann had an idea. If she could make up stories, now was the time for a whopping good one. She leaned over and whispered in Mrs. Cheddar’s ear, “Got to go. Farmer Curds has been having trouble with his cows. And there they go—escaped cows!”

“Where?” said Mrs. Cheddar, faintly. She didn’t see any cows, but Elizabeth Ann had already grabbed her boots and coat and had dashed outside. Elizabeth Ann didn’t know where she was going. All she knew was that she wasn’t coming back until Mrs. Cheddar’s birthday was over.

She wondered if her throat could pucker up, turning prunelike, until it choked all the air out of her esophagus and she fell over in a spectacular death in front of the whole fifth-grade class.



rs. Mozzarella, the school principal, happened to be gazing out the window when Elizabeth Ann ran by. *My goodness*, she said to herself, *where in the world can an exemplary student like Elizabeth Ann be going on such a frosty morning?* And Mrs. Mozzarella grabbed her boots and ran after her.

Elizabeth Ann stopped and waited for Mrs. Mozzarella to catch up.

“Where are you going?” asked Mrs. Mozzarella.

“It all started because of Mrs. Cheddar’s birthday...”

“Really? Did you know that over in Pleasantville, it’s *American Girl* magazine’s birthday, too?”

“So I’ve heard,” said Elizabeth Ann. “Anyhow, I was supposed to sing ‘Happy Birthday,’ but



I couldn't, and then suddenly, looking out the window, I saw Farmer Curds' cows," explained Elizabeth Ann. Then she got a dreamy look in her eye, and a strange thing happened to her. Instead of trying to make up a story, she began to see it unfold in her mind's eye. And as she saw it, she believed it. "So I ran out to catch them, but then I saw Farmer Curds in a cowboy outfit on a horse, and he seemed to be herding the cows in the direction of..." She stopped. This part had not quite come to her yet. Then suddenly she had it. "The public library!"

"Don't be ridiculous," said Mrs. Mozzarella. "Anyone can sing 'Happy Birthday.' Well, go help Farmer Curds with the cows if you must. I can't imagine why he's taking them to the library. I'm sure Miss Parmesan will never let them in. She likes to keep milk off the books. And don't stay out too long. The weather is simply biting."



Because Elizabeth Ann imagined the cows headed toward the library, she went there in a daze, uncertain what she would do when she got there. In the children's room, Miss Parmesan was busy putting up a display. "Why, Elizabeth Ann," she said, "what are you doing out of school?"

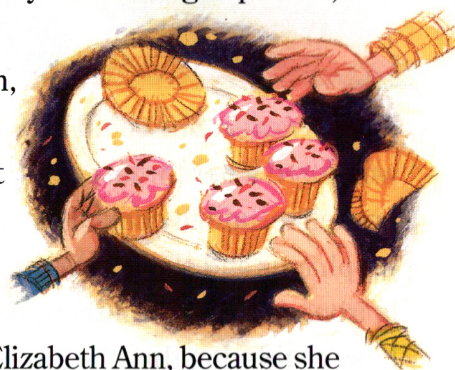
"Well, it all started with Mrs. Cheddar's birthday," said Elizabeth Ann.

"What a coincidence. It's *American Girl* magazine's birthday, too! The Whistle Stop Café baked four hundred cupcakes for their jubilee."

"What are they going to do with all those cupcakes?" asked Elizabeth Ann.

"It's the magazine staff, dear," whispered Miss Parmesan. "Once they start eating cupcakes, they just can't stop.

The writers, though, are gorging on cheese. There's not enough cheese in Wisconsin to keep a writer happy."



"Oh, dear," said Elizabeth Ann, because she preferred cupcakes to cheese. Would she ever be a *real* writer? "Anyhow, I was supposed to sing 'Happy Birthday' to Mrs. Cheddar, but I couldn't, and then out the window I saw these escaped cows with Farmer Curds herding them. They were headed toward the library."

Miss Parmesan gasped, but Elizabeth Ann went right on. "Farmer Curds was on a mission. He ... he ... he ..." It wasn't clear yet. Then suddenly she saw it all. "He wanted to ask you to marry him, but he realized he had no ring, so he was riding over to Gorgonzola's Jewelry Store when suddenly he saw robbers coming out of the bank. They had made a clean sweep of the place. He had no choice but to go after them because ... because ... because ..."



"Because ..." echoed Miss Parmesan breathlessly, her eyes wide.

"Because he was wearing a white hat," finished Elizabeth Ann.

"That's ridiculous," said Miss Parmesan.

"It is?" asked Elizabeth Ann.

"Yes, anyone can sing 'Happy Birthday.' Now, excuse me. I have to dash," said Miss Parmesan, and, grabbing her coat and boots, flew out the door.

Elizabeth Ann was exhausted. The events of this morning, whether real or not, had given her an appetite. She headed over to the Whistle Stop Café.

"Have a seat, hon," said Mrs. Jarlsberg. "What are you doing here? Why aren't you in school?"

"Well, it all started because it's Mrs. Cheddar's birthday," began Elizabeth Ann, "and also, as it turns out, *American Girl* magazine's."

"You're telling me," said Mrs. Jarlsberg. "Saw the fireworks at dawn over Pleasantville. Scared the cows." Mrs. Jarlsberg placed free hot chocolate and doughnuts in front of Elizabeth Ann and settled across from her in the booth.



Elizabeth Ann went over the whole story again, beginning with not being able to sing "Happy Birthday" and ending with Miss Parmesan and Farmer Curds in a tree, where they had been chased by bears in the dead-of-winter woods of northern Wisconsin.

"I still don't see how they got up in that tree. Farmer Curds is no climber," said Mrs. Jarlsberg, her eyes alight, dunking doughnuts and hanging on every word.

"I don't, either ..." said Elizabeth Ann, delving

"Oh, my gosh, it was aliens. They landed in Pleasantville to help *American Girl* magazine celebrate."

deeper into that part of her mind that saw it all unfolding. "Oh, my gosh, it was aliens. They landed in Pleasantville to help *American Girl* magazine celebrate, because the readers on Mars couldn't wait for their birthday issues. (The magazine always comes a bit late on Mars, which bothers Martians no end because readers on Venus get theirs right on time.) Anyhow, before returning to Mars, the aliens put the two of them in a tree. Probably a little too much birthday punch. Farmer Curds realized that a diamond ring was not in keeping with his simple values, and he offered Miss Parmesan a ring made from a pine cone."

"Humph!" said Mrs. Jarlsberg. "Wouldn't fancy that myself. What some men think women will put up with."

"No, but she *likes* it," said Elizabeth Ann in awe. "She thinks it's romantic."

"She thinks that now, wait until she tries to pay the rent with acorns," snorted Mrs. Jarlsberg.

"They're going to live happily ever after," said Elizabeth Ann, in wonder at her own certainty.

"Well, anyhow, that's ridiculous," said Mrs. Jarlsberg. "Anyone can sing 'Happy Birthday'."

"Mrs. Jarlsberg, table three!" called the short-order cook from behind the counter.

"Gotta run, hon, and you should head back to school," said Mrs. Jarlsberg, and grabbing her order pad, off she went.

I should, thought Elizabeth Ann, sorry this





morning was drawing to a close. When she got to the school, Mrs. Cheddar was just coming out.

"Elizabeth Ann!" she said. "What happened?"

So Elizabeth Ann told her the whole story, leaving out the part about not being able to sing "Happy Birthday," because no one ever believed that part anyway.

"Hmmm," said Mrs. Cheddar. "Do you know what I think?"

"What?" asked Elizabeth Ann.

"I think you're a writer. Imagine, being a writer and a singer. You'll be *really* fabulous at fifty."

"Mrs. Cheddar, I cannot sing. I have no voice at all," said Elizabeth Ann, and she was so frustrated that her eyes filled with tears.

Mrs. Cheddar, who had been checking herself out in her compact, put it down and looked at Elizabeth Ann. "Nonsense," she said. "You may not be able to sing but you have a voice."

"I do?" asked Elizabeth Ann.

"Of course. We all have a voice. Yours is just tuneless and given to rather melodramatic storytelling, if you don't mind a little friendly criticism."

"You're the only one who believed me when I said I couldn't sing," said Elizabeth Ann in surprise.

"That is because, apart from being fabulous at fifty, I have become wise. I am very, very wise. And I know that when someone trusts you enough to tell you who she *really* is, lumps and bumps, it's a gift. And we all like gifts! Oh, pressies, pressies, presents for me! Now quick! To the car and to Pleasantville, because do you know what else I need?"

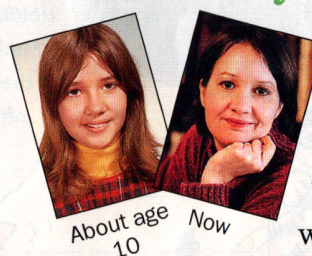
"What?" asked Elizabeth Ann as they jumped into Mrs. Cheddar's two-door coupe.

"CUPCAKES!" screamed Mrs. Cheddar. And they zoomed down the road. ★



Meet the Author

Polly Horvath



Happy birthday to the fabulous Mrs. Cheddar. Happy birthday to yours truly and to everyone else with a birthday in January or February. And happy birthday to *American Girl* magazine! Cupcakes for all!

The Giggle Gang

Birthday Blow Out!

You'll need to suck in a lot of air for these party dares!

Let Her Blow!

Turn a glass upside down and place a deck of cards on top. Each player takes a turn blowing off as many cards as she can in one breath. Be careful! The one who blows off the bottom card is out. Play until you have a winner.

Balloon Bounce

Each player writes her name on a balloon, then drops it onto a towel. Holding the towel ends, players toss the balloons into the air, trying to keep theirs on the towel. If a balloon falls off, that player's out and drops the towel. Play until you have one balloon and a winner!

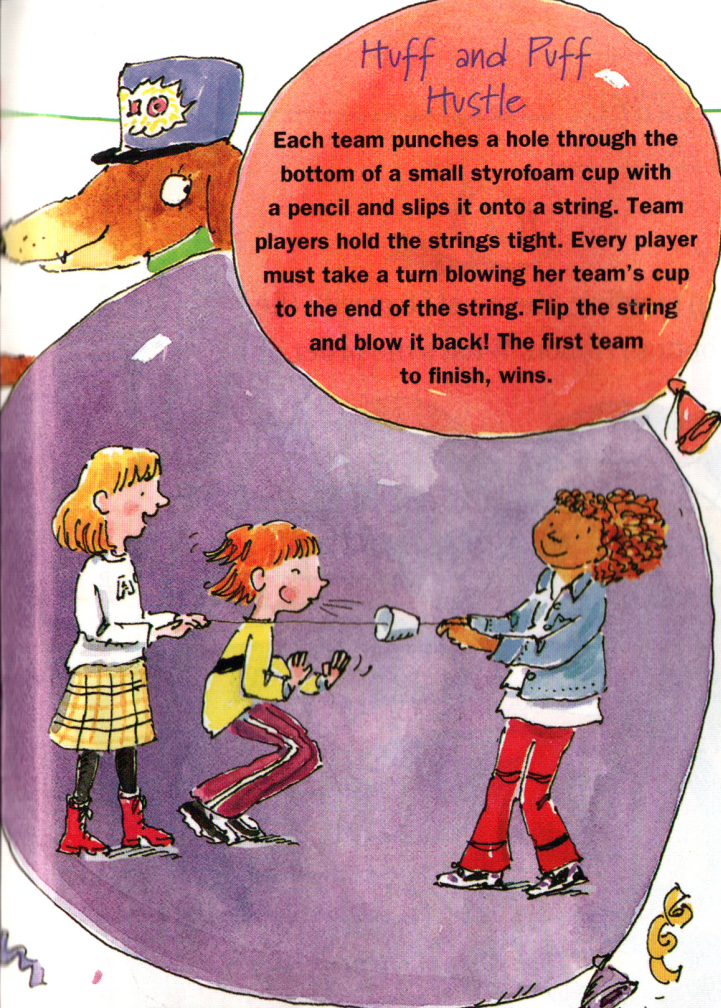
Celia: Why is Alice swinging from a tree? Tina: Her mom made her a pineapple upside-down cake for her birthday, and she wants to blow out the birthday candles.

Why did the cake like to play softball? Because it was a good batter.



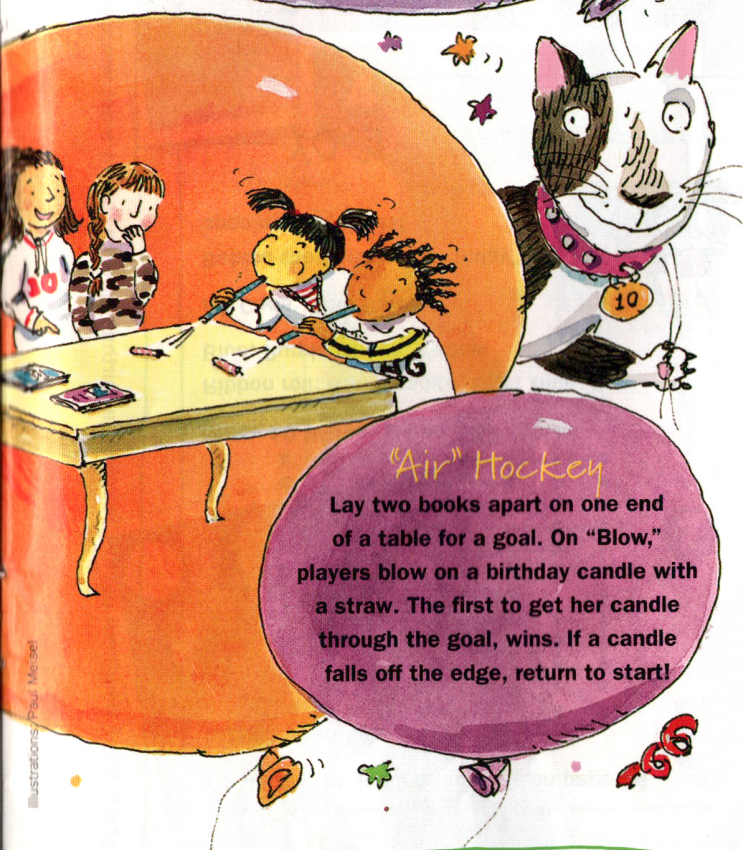
What do cats eat on their birthdays? Cake and mice cream!

All answers on page 40.



Huff and Puff Hustle

Each team punches a hole through the bottom of a small styrofoam cup with a pencil and slips it onto a string. Team players hold the strings tight. Every player must take a turn blowing her team's cup to the end of the string. Flip the string and blow it back! The first team to finish, wins.



"Air" Hockey

Lay two books apart on one end of a table for a goal. On "Blow," players blow on a birthday candle with a straw. The first to get her candle through the goal, wins. If a candle falls off the edge, return to start!

In 10se Word Search

Celebrate AG's 10th birthday with a word search. Each time t-e-n appears on the word list, replace it with the number 10. Cross out the words in the puzzle, then put the remaining letters (left to right, top to bottom) on the lines below to spell out a message. Use each letter and number once!

attendance	intend	tennis
brightens	lightens	tense
extend	pretend	tentacle
frighten	tender	tighten
heighten	tendon	whitens



W	M	10	N	I	S	A	A
S	H	10	D	E	R	T	K
10	E	I	E	10	10	P	H
H	D	S	10	D	W	R	E
G	10	10	A	S	T	E	I
I	I	N	N	I	S	10	G
L	C	H	G	I	E	D	H
E	S	H	10	D	O	N	10
C	10	10	T	A	C	L	E
F	R	I	G	H	10	O	M
E	T	E	X	10	D	R	U
E	S	10	H	G	I	R	B

What do ghosts always serve at birthday parties? Sheet cakes.

What's the most popular kind of birthday cake in Wisconsin? Cheesecake.

A patty-cake.



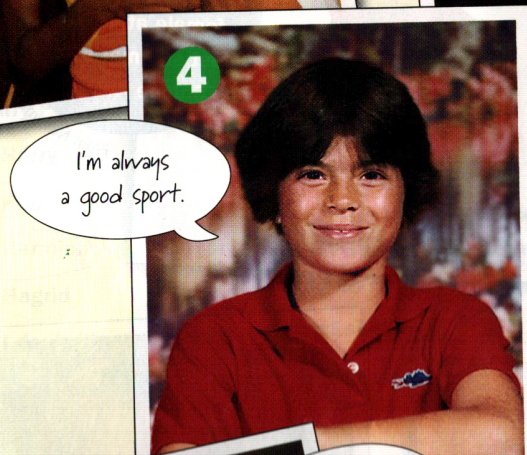
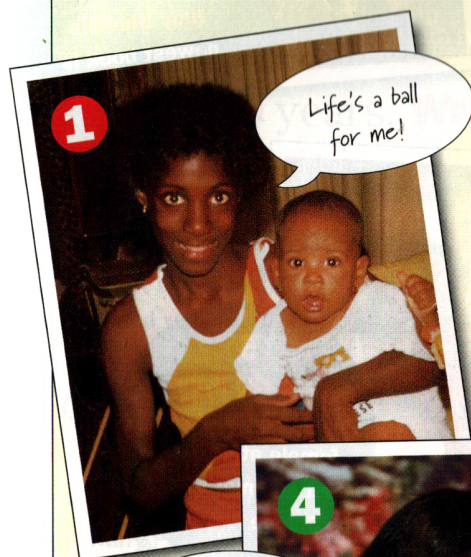
What do witches eat on their birthdays? Devil's Food Cake.



What kind of birthday cake did Patricia get for her birthday?

Who's That Girl?

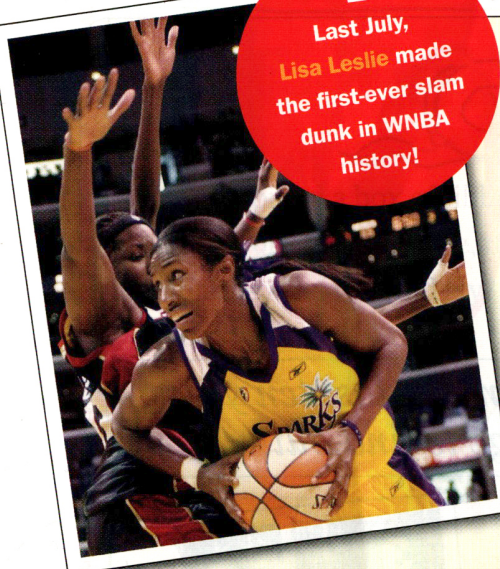
*Here are some of our favorite American girls from the last ten years.
Can you guess who they are? Turn the page to find out!*



From May/June 1999

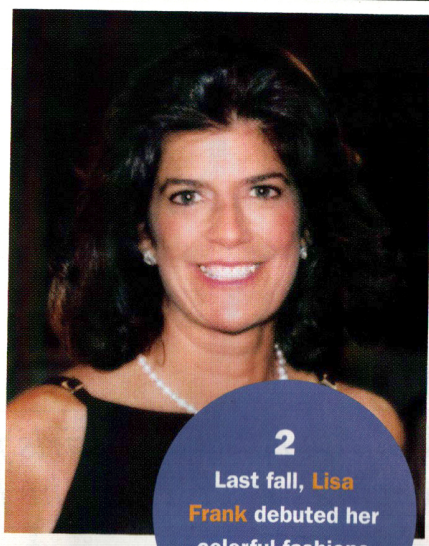
1

Last July, **Lisa Leslie** made the first-ever slam dunk in WNBA history!



2

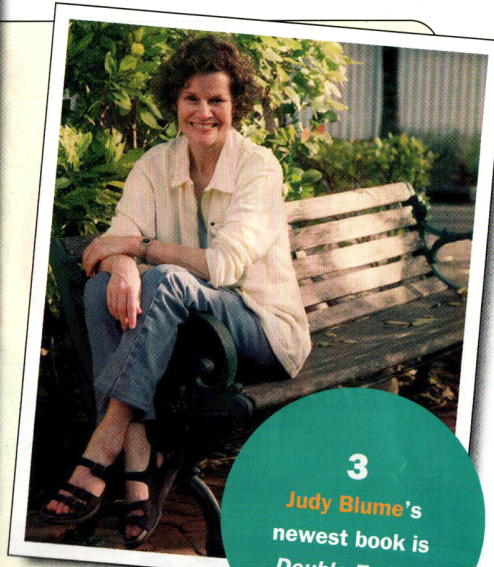
Last fall, **Lisa Frank** debuted her colorful fashions for girls.



From September/October 1994

3

Judy Blume's newest book is *Double Fudge*.



From January/February 2000

4

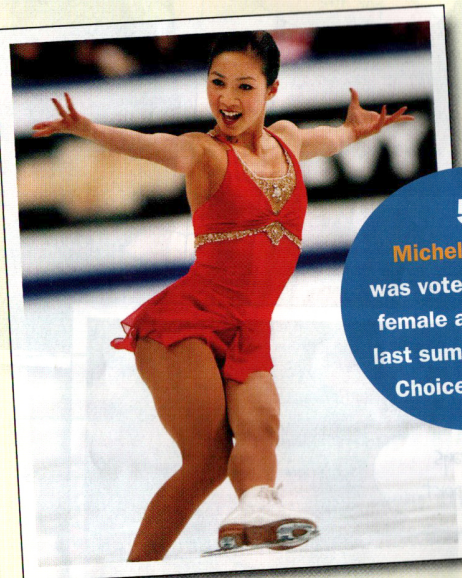
Playing for the Washington Freedom women's soccer team, **Mia Hamm** still scores!



From July/August 1999

5

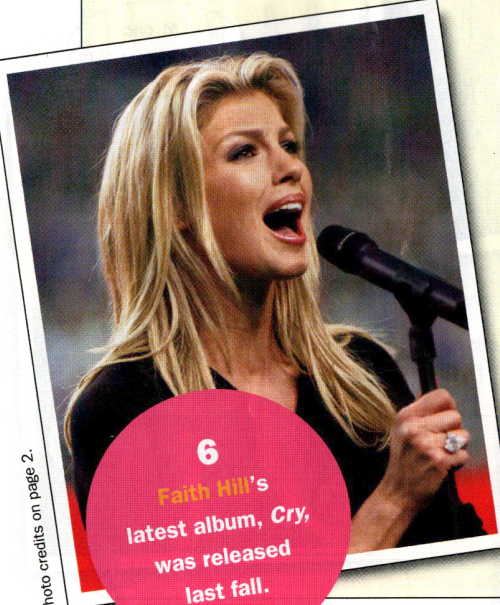
Michelle Kwan was voted "favorite female athlete" at last summer's Teen Choice Awards!



From November/December 1999

6

Faith Hill's latest album, *Cry*, was released last fall.



From November/December 2001

7

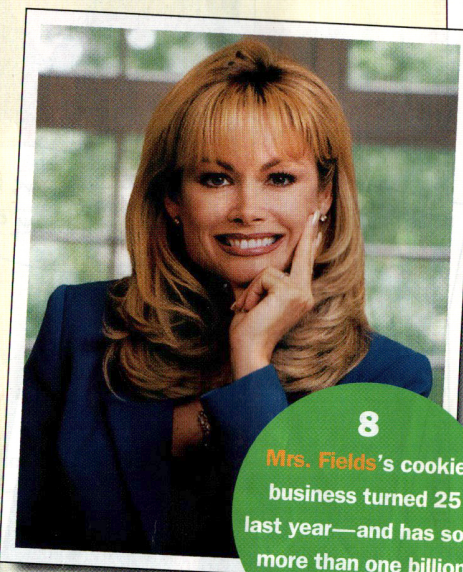
Melissa Joan Hart is leading a charmed life—on "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch."



From September/October 1998

8

Mrs. Fields's cookie business turned 25 last year—and has sold more than one billion cookies! ★



From March/April 1998

All About



These are **10** of our **favorite** Poll questions from the last **10** years. **Write** your answers here, then **turn** the page to see how closely you **match** with other AG readers!

1. It's your birthday!

Would you rather get:

a. One great big gift?

b. Lots of little ones?

2. Who's your favorite Harry Potter character?

a. Harry

b. Ron

c. Hermione

d. Hagrid

e. I don't like any!

f. Someone not on this list

3. What's under your bed?

a. A spotlessly clean floor

b. Some dust bunnies and boxes, but nothing too scary

c. A heaping mound of clothes and toys that Mom told me to put away

4. What's your favorite amusement park ride?

a. Roller coaster

b. Ferris wheel

c. Merry-go-round

d. Tilt-a-whirl

e. A water ride

5. Do you sing in the shower, or are you the soapy silent type?

a. I sing!

b. I'm silent.

6. If you could choose, would you rather stay the age you are now or be an adult?

a. I'd rather stay my age—kids have more fun!

b. I'd want to be grown-up. Adults have fewer rules!

7. Which award would you most like to win someday?

a. Olympic gold medal

b. Oscar for best actress

c. Grammy for best pop singer

d. Pulitzer Prize for great writing

e. Nobel Peace Prize

8. If you could have one superpower, what ability would you like to have?

a. Be invisible

b. Have superhuman strength

c. See into the future

d. Fly

9. You've won \$15 in a contest and can spend it anywhere you want—or save it. Where would you go?

a. Candy store

b. Clothing store

c. Bookstore

d. Music store

e. Toy store

f. Bank

10. Which quality do you value most in a friend?

a. Fun to be around

b. Loyal, keeps promises

c. Popular

d. Lives nearby

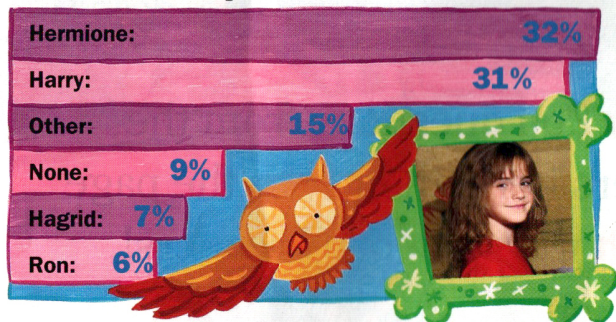
e. Other



1. You like lots of littles! A huge number—**83%**—would rather have piles of presents than one big gift.



2. Hermione barely beat out Harry as your favorite Potter person:



3. More than half of you—**51%**—keep dust bunnies under your bed. But **25%** of you stash everything while **24%** keep the floor under your bed clean.

4. Hold on tight! Your favorite amusement park rides are:

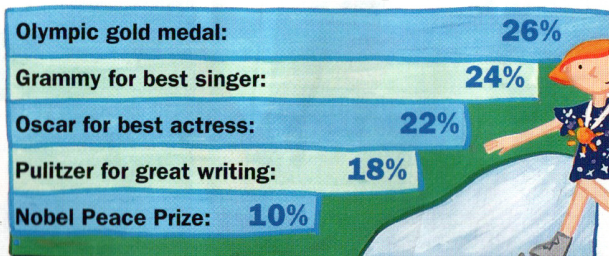


5. While **65%** of you sing in the shower, **35%** remain sudsy and silent.



6. It's great to be a kid! That's what **72%** of you say, while **28%** can't wait to grow up.

7. These trophies took the prize:



8. Your top three superpowerful wishes are to **fly**, to see into the **future**, and to be **invisible**.

9. You are supersavers! The first place you'd take your money is the **bank**, followed by the **bookstore** and then a **clothing store**.

10. You are a true friend! Here's what you value most in your buds:



What's a Percent?

The word "percent" and the symbol % mean "per hundred." For example, if **83%** of girls say they want lots of little gifts, that means 83 girls out of every 100 feel that way. ★

[illegible]

Quiz

What Will Your Friend Be Like in 2013?



Imagine a day with your friend ten years from today. Read this quiz with her and guess which answers she'll pick for herself.

1. How, heck! Here comes your friend to pick you up for tonight out. What's she driving?
 - a. A blue "Vette"
 - b. A motorcycle with lots of gears
 - c. A Jeep, which is useful for off-road driving (even though they're not used for that much with you)
 - d. A better shaped car than most convertibles of course
2. Your friend apologizes for being late to pick you up for the movie. What he excuses?
 - a. He was stuck in traffic
 - b. He was stuck in traffic and he was stuck in traffic
 - c. A broken tail
 - d. He was stuck in traffic and he was stuck in traffic
3. She was thinking of getting a game console and a lot of games. What's the best game she can get?
 - a. A game console and a lot of games
 - b. A game console and a lot of games
 - c. A game console and a lot of games
 - d. A game console and a lot of games
4. She was thinking of getting a game console and a lot of games. What's the best game she can get?
 - a. A game console and a lot of games
 - b. A game console and a lot of games
 - c. A game console and a lot of games
 - d. A game console and a lot of games

© 2013 by [illegible]

Orange glitter cardstock, blue cardstock, and white paper scraps are used to make decorative borders.

Card glitter hearts like this one, such as the F, are perfect!

Heart cards are lovely additions to Valentine's Day, especially for children.

Make a heart with a heart-shaped photo of a child or a pet.

Use a regular paper punch to cut out the dots.

Journal From an

Birthday

AG has 2,042 readers in 101 foreign countries. Here's how some of them celebrate birthdays.

Birthdays Around the World

Canada: If you're a guest at a Canadian girl's birthday party, don't be surprised if you find your piece of cake. That's because the birthday girl gets the first turn at all the party games!

Kenya: A girl in **Kenya** is often named after a saint. So instead of celebrating on her birthday, she has to wait until her saint's day.

Brazil: Forget the cake—the lady's treat at **Brazil** is **Brazil**. The birthday girl gives her guests beautiful sweets shaped like rain and vegetables.

Peru: In **Peru**, the birthday girl gets in for a day! She wears a paper crown, and her guests wear paper party hats.

Germany: What a great gift in **Germany**—birthday girls don't have to do chores on their special day, and teachers don't assign any homework!

Israel: An **Israeli** girl's birthday cake shows her friends how she likes to eat. If she's a veggie for sure, then her cake is shaped like a veggie!

Australia: At **Australian** birthday parties, guests eat Fairy Bread—buttered bread covered with tiny, colorful candy sprinkles.

Nigeria: Birthdays in **Nigeria** are considered extra special. Girls turn 1, 5, 10, and 15 years old. That's when the parties are huge—with 100 guests or more!

Illustration: Michelle Thompson

AMERICAN GIRL

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Mini Mag

With the Mini Mag, you can make a miniature copy of *American Girl*. All you need are scissors and a stapler. Read the directions all the way through before you begin.

1 Cut out each pair of pages only on the dotted lines. Be sure to cut around the tabs marked with the letters A, B, C, and D.



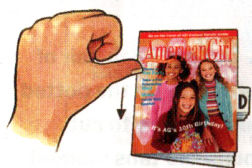
2 Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown below, with the letters on the tabs facing up.



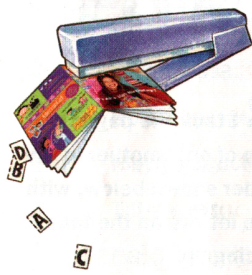
Continued (👉)

Mini Mag

3 Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. The cover of the magazine should now be on top. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat.



4 Open the folded stack. Staple along the center line. Cut off the tabs, and you're done!



Craft sparkle cards

Brighten someone's day with a glittery greeting card!

STEP 1: PREPARE THE CARDS

1. Measure and cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.
2. Fold the cardstock in half. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.
3. Glue the glitter onto the card. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.
4. Glue the card onto the album. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.

STEP 2: DECORATE THE CARDS

1. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.
2. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.
3. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.
4. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.

STEP 3: FINISH THE CARDS

1. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.
2. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock. Use a ruler and scissors to cut out the cardstock.
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The Giggle Gang

It's time to giggle! The Giggle Gang is here to help you have a great time. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

Birthday Blow Out!

It's time to celebrate your birthday! The Giggle Gang has a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

Surprise!

It's time to surprise your friends! The Giggle Gang has a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

AG Cook

Let's discover the secret to the secret recipe! The AG Cook has a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

Answer Box

What's the answer to the question? The AG Cook has a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

Open Ten

It's time to play Open Ten! The AG Cook has a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

American Girl

It's AG's 10th Birthday! Celebrate with AG's 10th Birthday! The AG Cook has a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

Throw a Pal Party

It's time to throw a pal party! The AG Cook has a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

Make Cards that Sparkle

It's time to make cards that sparkle! The AG Cook has a lot of fun ideas for you to try. They have a lot of fun ideas for you to try.

HELP!

Dear American Girl,

For my birthday, I am inviting two of my friends over. But one of them really, really hates the other girl. How can I make them be the best of friends?

In the Middle

You can't. If you really think they won't get along, don't risk ruining your birthday by forcing bickering buds together. Instead, spend time with each of them separately. Go out with one of them during the day, and invite the other to sleep over that night. You'll have a much happier birthday that way.



Dear American Girl,

I'm having a huge party and boys are invited. I don't really know what they like or what they eat. What should I do?

Boy, oh, boy!

Boys eat what girls eat. Pizza, popcorn, nachos, trail mix, chips, and other finger foods are good bets. A make-your-own-sundae bar will be a hit with everyone, too. Plan some active games or sports for your party, which should help the boys—and the girls!—have fun.



Stay away from activities that only girls want to do, such as painting nails. Everybody likes music, so have your guests take turns being DJs, or just ask them to bring their favorite CDs to the party. To take a break, pop in a movie that will appeal to everyone. Comedies and movies with great special effects are crowd pleasers. Have fun!



Dear American Girl,

I was invited to a birthday party, said I'd go, and totally forgot about it! I was at a restaurant with my other friends, and the birthday group arrived and sat right by us. Everyone saw me, including the birthday girl. I feel awful. Should I say anything or just pretend it never happened?

Oops

Apologize to this girl in person.

Tell her that you just forgot about the party and that you feel terrible. Most important of all, tell her that you're extremely sorry. Also, it wouldn't hurt to give her a late birthday present to show you really mean it. If you can't talk to her in person, you should write her an apology letter. She might still be mad at you, but at least you'll know you did the right thing.



Dear American Girl,

I really want to go rock climbing and then have a sleepover for my birthday, but one of my best friends hates rock climbing. I want her to come, but I don't want to change my plans. What should I do?

Birthday Party Blues

It's nice of you to think about what your friend likes, but it's your birthday, so you should plan a party that you think is fun. If your friend doesn't want to go rock climbing, don't give her a hard time about it. Tell her she can just come for the sleepover part of the day.

MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

When I have a party, my friends take over. They start suggesting *their* games and activities, and we don't get to do any of the fun games *I* planned. Help!

party crushed

When guests get bored, they come up with their own ideas for fun, so make sure you plan a party with lots of variety. Also, try breaking up all the activities by serving food often. For example, start your party with an active game or two, then break for a snack, then do a craft, then have cake, and so on. That will make it easier to keep your party under *your* control. If guests do get out of hand, remember that it helps to have an adult step in to get the party back on track.

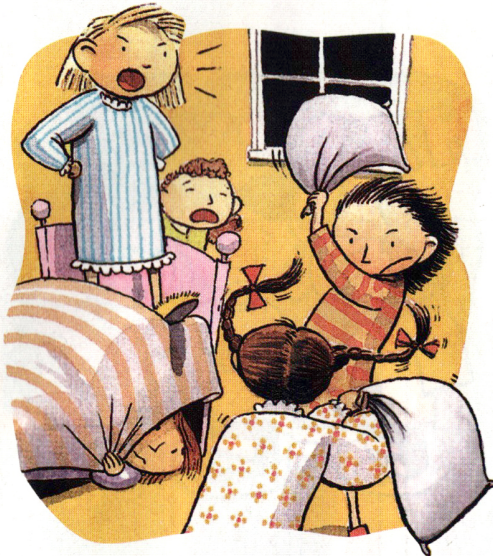


Dear American Girl,

All my friends get invited to lots of parties, but I don't. Even my really good friend did not invite me to a party she had. I get really jealous. What can I do?

too jealous

How about throwing your own party? You don't have to wait



until your birthday to have a bash.

Invite a few friends to a weekend sleepover, have some pals over for a Valentine's Day party, or get together for hot chocolate and sledding. If you make an effort to invite friends over, they'll be more likely to invite you back.



Dear American Girl,

I went to my friend's birthday party and we watched a scary movie that I didn't want to watch.

I didn't want to stand up to her, because it was her birthday.

What should I have done?

Scary Movie

This is a sticky situation. A good guest usually goes along with what the hostess has planned.

But if spooky movies are just too much for you, be polite about

saying no. You could have taken your friend aside and said, "Scary movies freak me out too much. Do you have a good book I can read while the rest of you watch it?" That way, your friend wouldn't have felt pressured to change her party plans, and you could have skipped the show.



Advice from You

"I have some simple advice for girls who don't like staying the night at a sleepover party. You can tell the hostess beforehand that you won't be staying overnight, and ask if you can just come back to the party in the morning. I've done it, and it works. Some of the girls didn't even realize that I left!"

Lauren P.
Age 14, California

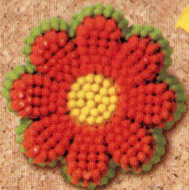
Need advice? Got advice? Write: Help!

American Girl

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



Our cover shoot was tons of fun! We tried lots of different poses to capture the best party spirit. To vote for your favorite, go to "Behind the Scenes" at americangirl.com.



While we were researching our own 10th birthday, we came across these other big birthdays in 2003:

 Dubble Bubble turns 75.

Crayola crayons turn 100.



 Garfield turns 25.

 Marshmallow Peeps turn 50.

Surprise!

Here's a mini quiz for you. How many times does the word

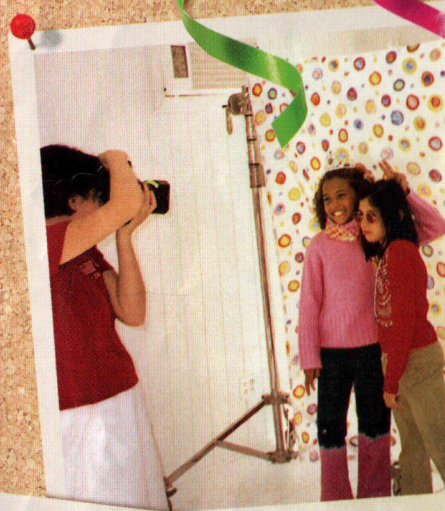
birthday

appear in this issue? (Yes, that one counts!)

Answer on page 40.

Behind the Scenes

Join the party and see what it was like to make our birthday issue!



Putting together our photo shoot was a lot of work—and a lot of fun.

Top: we used a cool shower curtain as the backdrop for the "Say Cheese!" shot. **Bottom:** Morgan and Frankie try on some of the props.



Meet Debra Spina Dixon, our new illustrator for "Girls Express."

What did you like to do when you were ten?
I liked to play soccer, draw, and write stories.

What are your favorite things to draw?
People. My favorite drawings are the things I doodle while I'm talking on the phone.

What's the best birthday gift you ever received?
When I was five, my parents gave me a dark blue bicycle with a sparkly silver "banana" seat. I thought my bike was the coolest thing ever.



For more Behind the Scenes scoop, check out americangirl.com.



Snooze Clues

Can't sleep? We'll give you great tips on getting your Z Z Zs.

Go Behind the Scenes

See what it's like to work at AG!

Animal Accessories

AG readers rate fun pet products.



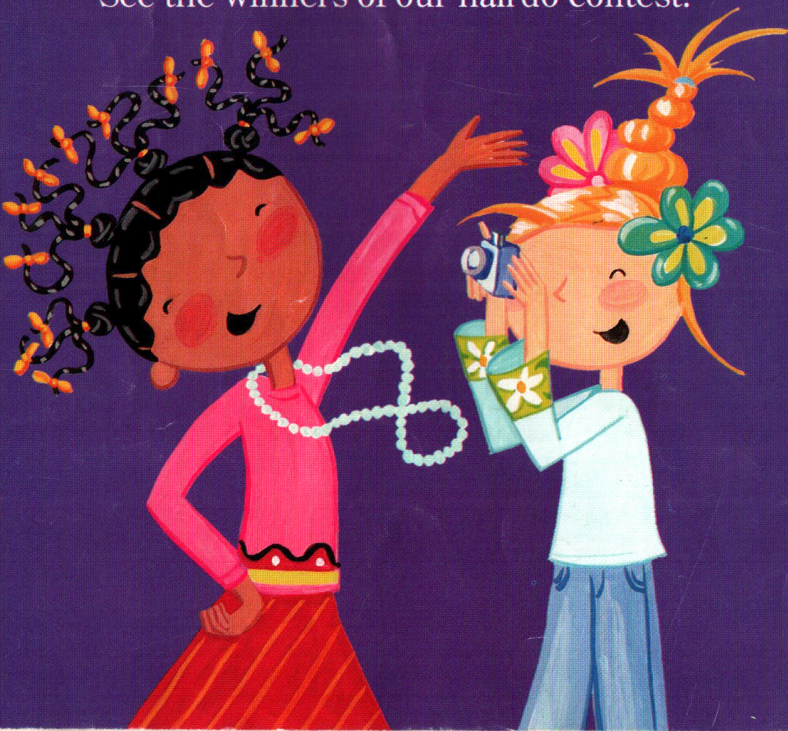
AmericanGirl®

Coming up in the March/April issue

For lots more fun, visit americangirl.com! Get a Net Pet and share your best animal advice!

Hair, There, and Everywhere

See the winners of our hairdo contest!



Just a Bite

Make the tiniest treats you've ever seen.



Got Ya!

Tricky tricks and silly pranks to make you smile on April Fools' Day

Party On

Look for more birthday surprises all year long!